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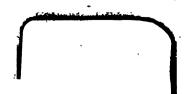
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THE PRINCE IN TH

Time's Telescope

TOTAL TO

1827;

OR.

A Complete Guide to the Almanack: CONTAINING AN EXPLANATION

Saints' Days and Holidays;

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF BRITISH HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES,
NOTICES OF OBSOLETE RITES AND CUSTOMS,
SKETCHES OF COMPARATIVE CHRONOLOGY,

AND

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AND

THE NATURALIST'S DIARY:

EXPLAINING THE VARIOUS

APPEARANCES IN THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE KINGDOMS,

A View of Scotian Botany.

Published Annually.

London:

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, GILBERT, AND PIPER,

PATERNOSTER ROW.

1827.

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Advertisement.

TIME'S TELESCOPE, of which we have now completed the Fourteenth volume, has received so many flattering testimonies of approbation from contemporary writers, and such continued indulgence from the Public, that we deem it a work of supererogation, 'in this our day,' to consume the time or exhaust the patience of our readers, in descanting upon its various claims to the notice of the literary world.

The kindness of numerous Contributors, and other patrons of our humble labours, will be ever fresh in our memory; and, while life and health permit, we will not shrink from the task of annually preparing for them an intellectual feast, in which it will be our constant aim to mingle the 'good things' of past literature with the more graceful productions of modern times;—the whole being intended to form an entertainment, at which the visiter may 'cut and come again' without fear of exhausting the stores of the banquet.

The present volume (almost entirely a new work), will be found to exhibit much novelty, as well as variety, in the selection of its materials:—a very interesting series of papers on Scotian Botany, by Mr. Young, of Paisley; a Description of some of the most rare and remarkable British Insects, by

Mr. Curtis, Author of the British Entomology; Ornithological Notices, by the Rev. Mr. Jenyns, of Bottisham-Hall; and Sketches of the various Appearances of Nature in five of the most interesting months of the year, by William Howitt;—are among the attractive portions of the Natural History Department of our Work.

The Biographical and Antiquarian Notices present many curious traits of character, and records of remarkable customs long since obsolete, yet worthy to be remembered; as well as too many instances of credulity and superstition still existing in a neighbouring country—we allude to the absurd legends and ridiculous ceremonies of the Roman Catholics in Portugal; an ample account of which will be found in our pages.

For the sake of variety, we have omitted to give any Introduction or Prefatory Poems to Time's Telescope for 1827; but their place has been supplied by original poetry, and a mass of curious and interesting matter on a variety of subjects,—a change in our plan which we hope will be agreeable to most, if not all of our readers, at least for one year;—and, for the future (Deo Volente), we will endeavour to follow the example of an illustrious Roman author,—Ipså varietate, tentabimus efficere, ut alia aliis, quædam, fortasse, omnibus placeant.

London, Nov. 18, 1826.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1826.

In the present volume, we have all the characteristic excellencies of its predecessors, with some manifest indications of the improving effect of competition. The scientific departments of Astronomy and Natural History, in which this publication stands alone, are executed with the same industry and judgment as hitherto: the antiquarian and biographical notices, in which too, we believe, Time's Telescope has no rival, are at least as rich and as interesting as those from which the public has derived so much pleasure and profit, in former volumes of this delightful work. While the poetry and general literature have assumed a tone of excellence which fully supports the contest with the many admirable annual volumes that now grace our lighter literature; and, taken altogether, we must still regard Time's Telescope as at once the most instructive and the most permanently interesting volume of its class which the father of a family can lay upon his parlour-table.'—St. James's Chronicle, December 29-31, 1825.

'The present volume of this various and useful work, is, like its predecessors, extremely well executed.'—Literary Gazette, November 19, 1825.

'We are always happy, at this season of the year, to welcome another volume of this entertaining collection, in which the utile et dulce are ever sure to be judiciously blended.'—Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xev, part II, p. 541.

'Thirteen years have now elapsed since the publication of this very interesting and instructive work was commenced; and during this period it has been deservedly popular among all classes of readers: It contains an endless and delightful variety of scientific notices; anecdotes, biographical sketches, poetry, historical facts, and so forth. Of the present volume it is a sufficient recommendation to say, that it is worthy of its predecessors. It is rich in original poetry, and is decidedly Protestast in its character. In narrating the occurrences of particular days, the editor has given considerable prominence to the murderous exploits of the Church of Rome. For this peculiarity in his work he has our cordial thanks, as well as for the other parts of his useful compilation.'—Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine, January 1826.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1825.

'Without attempting those expensive ornaments and that external appearance which distinguish some of its contemporaries, the utility and various intelligence of Time's Telescope, aided by the contributions of Poetry, Natural History, and other judicious concomitants to Almanack lore, have placed it high in the scale of popularity: it has thus become so well known to the public, that it would be superfaques to describe the present annual volume. Suffice it to say, that it equals its precursors, and is full of miscellaneous and entertaining notices, adapted to almost every day of the coming year.'—Literary Gazette, Nov. 27, 1824.

'This publication, since first it challenged public attention, has gradually increased in its powers of pleasing: it mingles the useful with the agreeable so tastefully, that it is a gift equally acceptable to youth, manhood, and old age. The volume before us, besides

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Notices of Time's Telescope for 1825:

presenting to the view much new information (of a biographical and historical nature), abounds in apposite quotations from esteemed authors, together with much that is original and beautiful; and throughout the work are scattered, with no sparing hand, "gems of poesy," some light and imaginative, others clad in the garb of "sober sadeness," but placed with such discernment, that each forms a contrast to the other. —European Manuzing, Dac. 1824.

'Time's Telescope has this great advantage over all the annual volumes to which its example has given rise, that it is not a book to be read during the holidays and laid aside on Twelfth Day: its excellent plan, which, as we have frequently had occasion to say, is followed up with the utmost skill, provides something for almost every day in the year, which cannot be so well read upon any other, and thus economises through the year a rich fund of delightful recreation.'—St. James's Chronicle, Jan. 6, 1825.

'The caution with which the Editor guards against the introduction of any matter that may be injurious to morality, and the judgment with which he selects his subjects, entitle him to public respect, and his work to public patronage. There is, indeed, amusement of all binds, and for all ages, in this Annual Repository. The testimonies of the several Reviews, Magazines, and Public Journals, in favour of the former volumes, are equally applicable to the present. Time's Telescope is indeed, as stated, a Guide to the present. Time's Telescope is indeed, as stated, a Guide to the present illustrate every important circumstance or character with which each month is respectively connected."—Sun, Jan. 1825.

'This work is really what it has been pronounced to be, a "felicitous conception;" and, notwithstanding the pretensions of its more showy competitors for public favour, most of whom have taken a few lenses from Time's Telescope to fit up their instruments with, it holds a distinguished place among the various Etrennes of the New Year. It happily combines the useful with the agreeable, and is well fitted to assist in forming the taste and guiding the conduct of youth of both sexes, as well as to instruct and amuse those of maturer years."—New Monthly Mag., Dec. 1824.

"Time's Telescope for 1825 is, in all respects, worthy a niche beside its highly patronized ancestors. The philosopher of nature will here behold the shifting scenery of earth's fair form delightfully pictured before him. He may be led, month by month, through the delightful changes of the seasons, even by his fireside; and when he is roaming through the real beauties of existence, he will find it a most valuable vade-mecum and instructor. The horizoidevist will realize much gratification, if not instruction, in perusing a new future of this production, namely, a "Treatise on Culinary Vegetables," so ably and judiciously written as to render it peculiarly interesting to every one who either delights to convert his little garden into an Eden of promise and fruitfulness, or who prides himself in the choice vegetable visueds of his table. The force, likewise, may turn to its pages for amusement and profit, and that not in vain; indeed, in were a matter of some labour to prove to whom the work would not be interesting, beneficial, and companiesable. The account of the

various fasts and festivate of the church, and the explanation of old manners and castoms, must be peculiarly interesting to all classes of

renders.'-Suffolk Chronicle, Jan. 4, 1825.

4 This volume must be seen and perused before it can be duly appreciated. It is a publication which youth will peruse with delight, reaping at the same time lasting advantage; while mature years will refer to it with pleasure, either to refresh the memory, in quest of new information, or as the means of awakening agreeable recollections; and we do with confidence state, that, at present, we do not recollect a production of the press, of equal size, in which the utile and the dulce are more agreeably and judiciously blended. We do, therefore, most sincerely and heartily recommend Time's Telescope; not only to parents, guardians, and instructors of youth, but also as a proper volume for the family parlour, and the gentleman's library.'—Stirling Journal, March 24, 1826.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1824.

"We do not hesitate to pronounce the plan of this work a "felicitous conception;" but as it is much easier to plan than to execute, we must do the Editor the justice to say, that he deserves unqualified praise for industrious research and judicious selection. The numerous poetical flowers, with which it is both ornamented and enriched, evince the purity of his literary and moral taste. Like the bee, he has roved abroad and at home, collecting his treasures from the rich blossoms in the cultivated garden, and the wild flowers in the pathless desert; always, with becoming candour and modesty, ac-knowledging the field from whence he culled his sweets; by which, those who are pleased with his banquet, know the sources from which he catered. He deserves still higher praise, for the pure and exalted strain of rational piety which pervades the work; the sublime notions of the Great First Cause, which are every where inculcated: and throughout the whole an obvious tendency to render the wisdom and goodness of the Deity conspicuous, in his works of creation and providence.

'To decorate the path which leads to the Temple of Knowledge with evergreen shrubs, and amaranthine flowers, of endless variety, and of pleasing fragrance, which stimulate the senses to still farther exertion, yet without one blossom of a noxious quality, is so highly laudable, that he who can accomplish this, to use the phrase which was once prostituted, "deserves well of his country;" and is the friend of all ranks, from the monarch on his throne, to the peasant in his cottage; for Knowledge is the hand-maid of Wisdom, who makes

peaceable subjects and good members of society,

'Now, we do think that Time's Telescope has a direct tendency to promote all this; for amidst the almost infinite number of publications, of misclianeous information, and for inciting a spirit of inquiry and deeper investigation in youth, without ought that can contaminate the mind, we know not one better adapted than that of which we write; no one that a father could with greater safety place in the family parlour; or a friend present in its season, with more satisfaction and credit to himself. In all schools and seminaries of edu-

cation, where English books are awarded as prizes for meritorious application, Time's Telescope should have a place among those distributed; and me have no hesitation in saying, that, nine times out of ten, it would

be highly esteemed.

But it is also deserving of a place in the libraries of "grave and reverend seniors," as a book of reference, in Chronology, Biography, Antiquities, and obsolete Customs, and in almost every branch of Natural History: while he who formerly delighted to climb the airy steep, or brush the dewy lawn, rejoicing in "each rural sight, each rural sound," now confined to his elbow chair, with his gouty foot resting on a cushioned stool, will wipe his spectacles, and in perusing the Naturalist's Diary, alternately smiling and sighing, will think of the joys and friendship of auld lang syne; and like the Greenwich or Chelsea pensioner, reading a narrative of the campaigns in which he served, will, for a moment, live his youthful days again."—Literary Olio, No. 12.

- 'Time's Telescope is really so meritorious a work, that we cannot refuse it the meed of a willing gift,—unfeigned praise. Like its ten predecessors, this eleventh annual volume is an entertaining and well-selected miscellany from the good things of past literature, together with original productions of congenial character.'—Literary Gazette, Nov. 20, 1823.
- . 'This work displays the same pleasing variety as was exhibited in the former volumes. It is one of those delightful books which is always welcome to us.'—Literary Chronicle, Nov. 29, 1823.
- 'This useful and agreeable little work, which is at once an annual and a perennial in the garden of periodical literature, has now reached the eleventh year of its revival, and yet still appears under a new aspect. It is "another yet the same"—" an old friend with a new face"—and yet the better, instead of the worse on that account. New Monthly Magazine, Jan. 1, 1824.
- 'We have more than once noticed the former volumes of this very agreeable miscellany, and we must do the ingenious Editor the justice to repeat, that his eleventh volume is by no means inferior in point of merit or variety to its predecessors. The work is, indeed, kept up with great spirit, and no pains have been spared to render it as useful as it is entertaining.'—Eclectic Review, Jan. 1, 1824.
- 'This volume, like its ten elder brethren, cannot fail of proving a very acceptable annual present. The Editor deserves commendation for considerable tact in selecting what is not only entertaining at the moment, but useful in affording solid information—and, what is highly praiseworthy, likely to lead the mind from Nature up to Nature's God.'—Gentleman's Magazine, December 1823.
- 'The number of Time's Telescope for the ensuing year is quite equal to its predecessors: there is no work of the kind with which we are acquainted, that contains such a variety of apposite and interesting matter: it is a work at once remarkable for ingenuity and industry.'—Times, Nov. 22, 1823.
 - ' We have given the title-page of this work almost at full length,

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1824.

in order that these of our readers who were not induced by our account of the two preceding volumes (for 1822 and 1823) to form a personal acquaintance with it, may at once perceiveditanture; and may be prepared, by a bill of fare so very inviting to the mental appetite, for that feast of varied information and entertainment which it provides. The execution, we can assure them, does justice to the plan of this very interesting publication; and continues to be highly creditable to the elegant taste and literary diligence of the respectable compiler. We cordially renew our former recommendations of it, especially to young persons of education and intelligence.'—Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, January 1824.

- 'This annual repository is replete with useful and pleasing historical and antiquarian illustrations of the Calendar.'—Encyclopædia Metropolitæna, art. CALENDAR.
- 'It is not merely an erudite and intelligent companion to the Almanack of the year, but it brings before its readers many important novelties in science; while the present volume is enriched by an able view of Physical Geography, and particularly by some curious facts resulting from the New Voyage of Discovery in the Arctic Regions.'—Monthly Magazine, Dec. 1, 1823.
- 'The character of Time's Telescope is maintained by undiminished and even improved excellence. We have still the same judicious selection of the subjects, best calculated to afford innocent amusement at the present hour, adorned and rendered valuable by those moral and religious principles which lay the foundation of enduring virtue and happiness.'—St. James's Chronicle, Jan. 10, 1824.
- 'We have, for some years past, annually called the attention of our readers to this entertaining and instructive publication; and we have, on former occasions, borne our testimony to its merits in terms so unequivocal and decisive, that we may be allowed to excuse ourselves, in the present instance, from saying more in its favour, than that the volume before us ably supports the high bonours which have been gained by its predecessors.'—New Evangelical Magazine, Jan. 1824.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1923.

- 'If the times are not better, still it must be owned that their Telescope is improving annually. Indeed, we think this little work deserves peculiar credit for its constant variety, whilst still preserving the original plan on which it started.'—New Monthly Magazine, December 1822.
- 'We have now had the gratification of approving the design and execution of this useful annual work for ten succeeding years; and can safely assert that the present volume is inferior to none of its predacessors. Novelty has been so studiously considered, that each volume is almost entirely a new work. The poetical selections are numerous and judiciously introduced.'—Gentleman's Magazine, December 1822.
 - 'We are acquainted with no annual work which has united so b 2

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1923.

many suffrages in its favour as Time's Telescope. The present publication does not derogate from the character of its predecessors, but is indeed an agreeable and instructive miscellany.'—Literary Gazette, December 7, 1822.

- 'This ingenious work is really worthy of public attention.'— Bull, December 27, 1822.
- This publication will convey, to young persons of intelligence and education, much entertaining and useful information, without that corrupting admixture of unsound principles, or improper allusions, by which so large a portion of the current literature of our times is unhappily debased.'—Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, Jan. 1823.
- 'This is an entertaining and instructive annual work.'—Courier, December 24, 1822.
- 'We have often had occasion to notice the periodical appearance of this useful work: in the variety and amusing quality of its contents, we know few works which can bear a comparison with Time's Telescope. We notice, with particular commendation, the poetical taste of the Editor, who has selected from the fugitive verses of the day many very beautiful and interesting specimens. The scientific department is got up with the same fidelity and cleverness which distinguished the former numbers of Time's Telescope.'—Month! Magazine, Jan. 1823.
- 'This is a very amusing book, and full of information on a variety of common-place topics, which people have in their mouths every day, and yet contrive to be profoundly ignorant of to the latest hour of their existence. History, antiquities, obsolete rites, biography, and a naturalist's diary, are only the prominent features of the work, which is as varied as it is amusing.'—Museum, June 7, 1823.
- 'The sustained excellence and improving reputation of this agreeable and highly useful series, afford a gratifying illustration of the extent, depth, and richness, of the resources of English literature; and of the sure reward which attends the exercise of industry and judgment in exploring them. The present volume fully supports the character of its predecessors; and saying this, we are not awage that we could give it a higher praise.'—St. James's Chronicle, December 10, 1822.
- 'Of all the annual publications of the present day, numerous as they are, there is not one that we long so much to see as Time's Telescope; for there is none, from which, in times past, we have derived greater pleasure and profit. Its reputation is now so fully established, that it stands in no need of any recommendation from us, or it should certainly have it. We soarcely know a work in which the utile and the dulce are more happily blended.'—New Evangelical Magazine, December 1822.
- 'This is a well-conducted annual work.'-Morning Post, December 19, 1822.
- 'Dr. Herschel, with his gigantic telescope of forty feet, could only examine the heavens, and trace the planetary orbs in their course; the author of Time's Telescope does much more, for he not only

searches the starry heavens with microscopic ken, but spreads the whole earth before us, and penetrates to "the waters under the earth." Indeed, he unfolds the whole book of nature, and revels in its choicest productions. Time's Telescope has now attained a standing of ten years, during which time it has progressively increased in merit and reputation, presenting the same interesting variety, the same novelty, and the same good taste which first distinguished it. In short, it is a book which no person who whese for amusement or information on a variety of subjects should be without."—Literary Chronicle, December 7, 1822.

'This is an entertaining and instructive annual work.'—Bell's Weekly Messenger, December 29, 1823.

'Time's Telescope has certainly been furnished this year with an additional number of lenses, bright, clear, and achromatic; se that we are enabled to view, with distinctness and pleasure, the various objects that are set before us. Of the natural pictures here held up to view we can scarcely speak in too warm terms of commendation. The introduction on the habits, economy, and uses of British Insects. is original and amusing; and the description of Astronomical Instruments is concise and clear. With the Ode to Time, by Mr. Barton, we have been greatly pleased, and indeed the whole volume is one which we can cordially recommend. The Editor is entitled to the highest praise for his laborious collections in poetry, biography, and the facts of natural history; the last is, at all times, a pleasing and delightful study, and which cannot be too much pressed upon the attention of youth. In a word, this is the best volume of Time's Telescope which has yet appeared.'-London Journal of Arts, December 1822.

'We have repeatedly recommended this work to our readers, who have a taste for scientific studies. The present volume contains a vast variety of interesting matter.'—Supplement to Evangelical Magazine for 1822.

For the tenth time we meet this truly interesting compilation, which seems to improve with every recurring year, and may be rastly said to afford a high intellectual treat to all who possess a love for literature and science. We know not a volume, indeed, even in the present productive state of the Periodical Press, which is so well calculated as this, to excite in the youthful and ingenuous mind a vivid and durable impression of the value of time, and of the beauty, sublimity, and utility, of the mighty works-of God. It is evidently the production of a man of great ingenuity and research; for he has contrived, notwithstanding an apparent necessity for repetition in some of the details, to give to each succeeding volume. and through every department of its contents, the charm of variety, and the impress of novelty; a result which he has been enabled to obtain through a very happy use of the almost inexhaustible treasures which are to be found in the mines of Philosophy and Natural History, in the delightful stores of Biography and Literary Anecdote, and in the curious minutize of Manners, Customs, and Superstitions. With these he has mingled copious and judiciously selected illustrations from our best poets, living as well as dead; a feature in the work which stamps it with a lively and endearing interest, and which appears, indeed, in the volume before us, with singular attractions for our Suffolk readers, as it includes some highly finished effections from the moral pen of one who resides amongst them (Mr. B. Batyson), and who, whether regarded as a poet or a man, may be correctly said to reflect honeur, not only on the sect to which he more peculiarly belongs, but on the country which has given him birth.'—Suffolk Chronicle, December 14, 1822.

This work blends instruction with amusement, and presents a compilation of topics extremely well adapted to excite its younger readers to further research, and to create in them a desire of scientific and useful knowledge: it will amply repay a careful perusal. — Monthly Censor, March 1823.

'The season which brings to us almanacks, souvenirs, diaries, and all the other thousand red and blue-vested remembrancers of Time, is again come round, and has duly brought to us one amongst those remembrancers, which we value far beyond its fellows, because it is of a more intellectual nature—we mean Time's Telescope. This work, which has now reached a tenth volume, does not, like many works which have been long continued, exhibit any signs of decay. On the contrary, it is carefully edited, and has received some improvements. In such a volume as this, where the same ground must be yearly travelled over again, it is no small merit to have avoided a wearisome sameness, and to have introduced so much of novelty. The selections, whether of prose or of poetry, are made with judgment, and combine utility with amusement.'— Supplement to Arlies's Pocket Magazine, December 1822.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1822...

'To look back with advantage, and forward with pleasure, is the sum and substance of human happiness. Fortunate is he who can doso; and still more fortunate is he who has this little work to assist him in his retrospect and prospect, thereby giving an additional value to the time present. Whatever his pursuit, however multifarious his researches, he cannot fail of finding here both information and amusement, united to a degree of novelty and variety by no means to be expected in an annual publication of this kind. In this selection, good taste is evident; recapitulation has been avoided as far as possible, without omitting necessary information; whilst the author, without seeming to infringe in the slightest degree upon its contemporary utility, has with ingenious propriety rendered it specifically adapted to its place in the regular series of which it forms the ninth volume.'—New Monthly Magazine, Jan. 1822.

With the return of this period of the year, we have to notice the recurring volume of Time's Telescope for the year 1822; for the character of which it might be sufficient to refer to our remarks on the previous volumes. We find the same industry and ingenuity displayed in the selection of anecdotes and facts appropriate to particular days, and the same good taste in the choice of the poetical pieces, thickly interspersed through the pages. It is unnecessary to

say more of a work which has now passed several times under our notice, and whose merits are so fully substantiated as to leave the critic no further duty to perform.'—Monthly Magazine, Jan. 1822.

We should have called this work Time's Kaleidoscope instead of Time's Telescope, for at every turn of a page it presents the reader with a new and agreeable combination of form, colour, and material. But, while it resembles, it also surpasses that curious instrument, inasmuch as its express object and tendency is to blend instruction with amusement, and to make the one as attractive as the other. We observe that the pages of this useful miscellany are diligently enriched from the leading publications of the times, which are referred to in a manner honourable to the parties quoting them, and valuable to readers who may wish additional information on the subjects thus brought to their notice. Taken altogether, Time's Telescope is one of the best productions to be put into the hands of youth which our It leads by easy roads to improving teeming press sends forth. studies; it is exceedingly various; it is full of hints for thinking, and it is honest and unprejudiced. From the child of five years of age to the mature of fifty, it will afford both entertainment and intelligence. -Literary Gazette, Dec. 1, 1821.

'When so many attempts are made to corrupt the minds of the rising generation, through the medium of elementary books of instruction, it affords us pleasure to be able to recommend an attractive work, which is entirely free from the taint of bad principles. Time's Telescope is an agreeable miscellany, worthy of the attention of all classes of readers, but particularly of intelligent young persons, to whom it will convey much useful and entertaining information on the various subjects mentioned in its title. The whole is interspersed with numerous anecdotes, antiquarian references, historical facts, and poetical selections; admirably calculated to excite a taste for knowledge, and to render its acquisition easy and agreeable. We have looked through the volume, and are happy to find that, in a literary melange of so much extent and variety, there is so little to which persons of serious religion can object, and so much which they will cordially applaud.'—Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine, January 1822, No. 1, Vol 1, N. S.

'The style of this book is uniformly neat and appropriate. The information which the Editor gives on each subject is correct; it is ample, without being prolix; and it is occasionally enlivened by good extracts from our best poets. One thing more must be said of youth, without the fear of its exciting an improper idea; and this is a quality of which the value must be felt by every parent and preceptor.'—Arliss's Pocket Magazine, Dec. 1821.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1821.

'Time flies so rapidly, that a *Telescope* becomes necessary to look at him when past, and is not less amusing to examine him as he approaches. Time also is that which we can never reform, but still we may improve it: and if it be a mark of wisdom to make the most of our time, it must be allowed that the Editor of the work before

us has equally succeeded; for he has not only improved the past to make it useful for the present, but has also made the most of the future, by showing that almost every day in the year is good for samething. He who wishes to know why one day is more remarkable than another? Why he must eat mince-pies at Christmas, or Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Why he must eat goose at Michaelmas, or be made a goose of on All-Fools-Day?—he who wishes to turn his Telescope on human events, or on the Heavens?—he who wishes to be directed, agreeably to the season, in his observations of nature, enlivened and illustrated by apt quotations from our best poets; or who, in short, wishes to know what time was and will be, cannot fail of gratifying his curiosity by a reference to this useful little parlourwindow book. It has been before the public for some years, and is now considerably improved in arrangement, as well as in quantity; so that those possessed of former volumes will find that the present is far from being a twice-told tale: even if it were only for the very popular mode in which the interesting subject of Ornithology is treated, rendering it perfectly intelligible to youthful capacities, whilst older readers may find much that they have forgotten. In short, we wish it, and our readers, a happy new year!'-Sun, December 20, 1820.

'To young persons, either in town or country, this volume will be very acceptable, as it will furnish them, in one case, with much novel and amusing instruction; and in the other, will prove an agreeable guide to many of those pursuits which are the peculiar charm of a country residence. We know not any publication of a similar nature in which there is a better union of pleasure and amusement.'—Monthly

Magazine, January and July 1821.

Time's Telescope blends something of the character which belongs to the Literary Pocket Book with that of a general Almanack; but at the same time possessing features different from either of these and peculiar to itself, and being altogether much more useful and compendious than both."—Baldwin's London Mag., Feb. 1821.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1820.

'TIME, not the world's Time, with wings besprinkled with cards, tice, and "at homes,"—but the Time of the Astronomer, the Naturalist, and the Historian, again opens his annual Magazin des Nouveautés; and we can safely assure those who may wish to become purchasers, that all the articles in this literary bazar are well seffected, and of the first quality. This pleasing volume is well adapted for Schools, either as a class-book, or the reward of merit. —Gentleman's Magazine, Dec. 1819.

'This elegantly printed volume is admirably calculated for the important purpose of forming the taste and correcting the judgment of the rising generation. The respectable place which this book occupies in some established seminaries, will, doubtless, recommend it generally to the attention of such as are engaged in the business of instruction.'—Antijacobin Review, December 1819.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1819.

While this annual companion and guide retains the respectable character which now belongs to it, no parlour window, school room, or private study, can well dispense with its presence.'—New Monthly Magasine, Feb. 1819.

Notice of Time's Telescope for 1819.

'Time's Telescope presents us with a new view of the ensuing year. To give variety to an almanack has long been considered as impossible; yet this ingenious little work, by means of recent or passing events, by an appropriate new selection of Poetical Illustrations, and by a new Intro duction, offers an amusing novelty, without departure from its original plan.'—Literary Gazette, Dec. 12, 1818.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1818.

'We cordially recommend this volume to the attention of persons of every age and taste, but particularly to the inquiring youth of both sexes.'—Antijacobin Review for December 1817.

'Time's Telescope for 1818 deserves the same praise, and is entitled to the same support and encouragement, which the former volumes have received from the public.'—British Critic for December 1817.

Notice of Time's Telescope for 1817.

'We have already noticed the preceding volume of this amusing and instructive performance; and we have now little to add to or deduct from the encomiums which we deemed it our duty to pass on the contents of that part; the plan being still the same, and the execution and arrangement as nearly as possible on the same model. We shall not consider it as requisite for us to continue our report of this annual publication.'—Monthly Review for August 1817.

Notice of Time's Telescope for 1815.

"We never met with a compilation better calculated for the use of families, and to serve as a portable companion for young persons, than this elegant little volume, which abounds with valuable information on subjects of general interest, and with a pleasing variety of rational entertainment. The book is written in a popular style, the articles are selected with great judgment from the best authorities; and while the scientific illustrations tend to quicken curiosity, the reflections interspersed with the extracts, occasionally given from the most charming of our poets, will increase the delight afforded by contemplating the works of Nature, and raise the mind to a devout admiration of the Divine Author.'—New Monthly Magazine, Jan. 1815.

Notices of Time's Telescope for 1814.

- ^c This work contains a great variety of very useful information, conveyed in a most pleasing manner. We cannot hesitate to pronounce that it will be popular. It deserves to be so; and it has too many attractions, for every kind of taste, to be overlooked. It will form a delightful as well as instructive present for young persons at Christmas. Entitish Critic for December 1819.
- We cheerfully give to Time's Telescope our warmest recommendation as a pleasing and safe book for the rising generation.'—Eclectic Review for February 1814.
- 'This is a most useful and entertaining little work.'—Rev. T. Pruen's Illustration of the Liturgy.



Thy desire, which tends to know
The works of God, thereby to glorify
The great work-master, leads to no excess
That reaches blame, but rather merits praise
The more it seems excess;
For wonderful indeed are all his works!
Pleasant to know, and worthiest to be all
Had in remembrance always with delight.
But what created mind can comprehend
Their number, or the wisdom infinite
That brought them forth, but hid their causes deep?

MILTON.

There is nothing so charming as the knowledge of literature; of that branch of literature, I mean, which enables us to discover the infinity of things, the immensity of Nature, the heavens, the earth, and the seas: this is that branch which has taught us religion, moderation, magnanimity, and that has rescued the soul from obscurity, to make her see all things above and below, first and last, and between both; it is this that furnishes us wherewith to live well and happily, and guides us to pass our lives without displeasure, and without offence.—CICERO.

Thou art, O Gop, the life and light Of all this wondrous world we see; Its glow by day, its smile by night, Are but reflections caught from thee. Where'er we turn, thy glories shine, And all things fair and bright are thine. When day, with farewell beam, delays Among the opening clouds of ev'n, And we can almost think we gaze Through golden vistas into heav'n: Those hues, that make the sun's decline So soft, so radiant! Long, are thine. When night, with wings of starry gloom. O'ershadows all the earth and skies. Like some dark, beauteous bird, whose plume Is sparkling with unnumbered eyes; That sacred gloom, those fires divine, So grand, so countless! Long, are thine.

T. MOORE.

TIME'S TELESCOPE

FOR

1827.

JANUARY.

JANUARY was so named, because sacred to Janus. Its tutelar divinity was Juno. The sign of this month is Aquarius, supposed to denote that snows and rains are now more frequent than in any other season of the year.—See our last and previous volumes.

Remarkable Days

In JANUARY, 1827.

1.—circumcision.

This festival commemorates the circumcision of our Lord on the 8th day of his nativity. It was first observed in the year 487. This is the New-Year's Birth-day, the starting-place of another twelvementh's race for honour, for fortune, for existence. This is indeed that

Happy holiday,
When gifts and gratulations go about
So closely heart-linked, that we well may deem,
Of those so happy triumphs ere guilt was,
The time is come again;——

and so ought we to deem it. So ought we, on this day, to teach our hearts to rejoice over national pros-

perity and individual happiness, over hopes undeferred, and prayers accomplished, over our friends' success and our neighbours' good fortune; for the peace of the cottage, and the pride of the palace; at the glory of the Monarch and the attachment of the people. At all these we ought, to-day, to exult.

Though of different tastes and fancies, there should yet be but one heart and mind amongst us upon this festival, even although we may deem it fitting to cast a Parthian glance, as it were, back upon the glories or the griefs that now lie buried in the tomb of time. Such ought not to spoil our appetite for the present, or rob us of hope for the future. What, albeit that age doth steal with noiseless tread,

and ere we fear, The sad unwelcome visitant is here,

though 'day buries day, and month the month,' still we shall find enough of food for content, and gratitude, and contemplation, to exist upon, in the knowledge of what has been, in the anticipation of what may be. Nay even though some of us should labour under those griefs that 'crack the heart strings,' though others may bear seared and shrivelled-up hopes, yet we should be rather content to bear those ills we have, than, as the Bard of Avon writes, 'fly to others which we know not of.'

It should rejoice us, that amidst the chances and changes a twelvemonth works, amidst the 'olive branches' it produces, the graves it opens, we still eat the bread of life, and have not felt the dart of the 'last enemy.' We should rejoice that science, and charity, and learning, have flourished amidst us; that our religion, that for which our forefathers fought, and we reverence, still exalts its holy banners

in bloodless triumph and wailless victory.

These, and a hundred other such, are the blessings that should teach us to endure the ills, real or imaginary, of life, and deter us from heaping obloquy upon the tomb of the old year, or the cradle of the

new:—acting thus, it will be a consolation to feel, that, during the progress of eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, we have endeavoured to lighten care of some of its frowns, grief of some of its tears; contributed somewhat to the information of the young, as often as we could to the comforts of the old: and that we begin this good work, this 'labour of love,' upon New-Year's Day.

6.—EPIPHANY, or TWELFTH DAY.

The observations that follow are from the pen of an anonymous correspondent; but they are not the less entitled to consideration on that account, since they very pleasantly describe some of the merriments of Twelfth Night. After giving the origin of the day,

taking it from our authority, he says-

But for all this, and even as it is now ordered, the day is of pleasant recurrence. I love to see the beings that people the world happy, in spite of its I doat on the smiles of childhood, and I feel a sunshine when the aged look pleased and merry. I reverence the memory of that hero and monarch of Prussia, who would not desist from his game of play with his little ones to honour an ambassador. Is there, then, any wonder that Twelfth-night,-pardon the blunder for the sake of the quotation,—is to me a high and glorious holiday?' Then it is that thousands of great and little children laugh pale and sickly Melancholy out of countenance; then 'wreathed smiles,' like flowers newly sprung, hide the traces of care and the lines of thought. Then do parents' eves beam with satisfaction, as they gaze upon their children's innocent mirth, whilst children in their turn feel a sanction for their happiness, in viewing the contented countenances of those who have given them birth and blessing. Pleasing and pleased, all own the authority of the moment, whilst the genius of good-humour sits throned upon his palace of cake. directing the revels and rewarding his votaries. Then also the king's name 'is a tower of strength' to the happy little gentleman that has the fortune to select it; and the queen's title is of 'imagination all compact' in the eyes of the good young lady who draws it from the mimic lottery. Then sometimes Falstaff struts, without fretting, his hour upon the stage, taking, however, especial care neither to send his regiment of playmates to Coventry, nor to march thither himself: some Prince Hal swaggers in Mama's plumes; and, though he finds no Dame Quickly to warm him with sack, he runs against a merry Bardolph, or a waggish Poins, who, out of pure merriment, serve him worse than did the chief-justice the royal personage whom he apes, by putting him into one.

According to some authorities, and which have been quoted in former volumes of Time's Telescope, beans and peas, found in a piece of divided cake, entitled the favoured couple who drew it to the honour of being treated as king and queen for the evening. Is it a surmise ill placed to think, that the inclosing of couplets and jokes, which we now meet with in the emblematic ornaments of our twelfth-cakes, arose from this custom? Be this as it may, these innocent merriments do indeed beget a winter madness, far less imbued with vanity, than the fantastic self-deceit of a Malvolio, or the simple doatings of Master Slender. Well, well, adieu to the holiday for another year; and when next it comes, may we be all as hale and hearty as we now are; and when 'the song, and jest, and tale go round,' may we, in our mimic kingdom of pastime, be able to add a commentary to the old chorus, and merrily, merrily sing,

Barring all pother of one and the other, We all have been kings in our turn.

8.—SAINT LUCIAN.

He was a Presbyter of the Church at Antioch, and, as some affirm, a disciple of St. Peter. He suffered martyrdom on the rack in Nicomedia. He

flourished about A.D. 180, and founded a church at Winchester.

8.—PLOUGH MONDAY.

Till after Twelfth-day, very little country business of any kind used to be carried on. Feasting and visiting filled up the period between Christmas and that day, which was always observed with due solemnities. Plough Monday, which speedily followed, was to remind the cultivators of the earth of their proper business; and a spring was given to the activity of domestics, by some peculiar observances. The men and maid servants strove to outvie each other in early rising, on Plough Monday. If the ploughman could get any of the implements of his vocation by the fireside before the maid could put on her kettle, she forfeited her shrovetide cock. The evening concluded with a good supper.

13.—SAINT HILARY.

He was a pious father of the Christian church, a native, and afterwards bishop, of Poictiers, where he died in the year 367.

*16. 1826.—LINDLEY MURRAY DIED, Æt. 80.

He was a native of Pennsylvania, in North America, but he resided for a great part of his life at New York. His father was a distinguished merchant in that city. Both his parents were persons of respectable character, and were solicitous to imbue his mind with pious and virtuous principles. He was carefully and regularly educated, and made a rapid progress in learning. At the age of nineteen he commenced the study of the law, under the auspices of a gentleman eminent in the profession, and had the pleasure of having for his fellow-student the celebrated Mr. Jay. At the expiration of four years, Mr. Murray was admitted to the bar, and received a licence to practise, both as counsel and attorney, in all the courts of the state of New York. In this pro-

fession he continued, with increasing reputation and success, till the troubles in America interrupted all business of this nature. He then engaged in mercantile pursuits, in which, by his diligence, abilities, and respectable connexions, he soon acquired a handsome competency. Having been afflicted with a fever which left great weakness, and his general health being much impaired, he was induced, in the year 1784, by the advice of his physicians and friends, to remove into a more temperate climate. He accordingly came to this country, accompanied by his wife; and, though not restored to his former health and strength, he received so much benefit as induced him to remain in England. He settled in Yorkshire, and purchased a house pleasantly situated at Holdgate, a small village, about a mile from the city of York, where he continued to reside. The weakness of his limbs gradually increased, so that he soon found himself incapable of walking more than a few steps in the course of a day, without great inconve-He was, however, able to ride in his carriage: he regularly attended public worship; and in summer he was drawn about his garden in a chair; but for many years previous to his decease, he was wholly confined to his house: he found that even a very small degree of bodily exertion increased the debility of his frame, and that exposure to the air occasioned frequent and severe colds. To a person distinguished as Mr. Murray had been for health, strength, and agility, confinement was at first a severe trial; but during the whole course of it, a murmur or complaint was never known to escape his lips. Time and religious considerations perfectly reconciled him to his situation. Deprived of the usual occupations and amusements of life. and of the common occasions of doing good to others, he generously turned his attention to composing literary works, for the benefit, chiefly, of the rising generation. In this benevolent employ he found great satisfaction, and

met with uncommon success. His English Grammar, with the Exercises and the Key, has been much approved, and extensively adopted. It has passed through many large editions in this country, and been frequently reprinted in America. His French and English Readers, his Abridgment of his Grammar, and his Spelling-book, have also received very high encomiums. Having begun his literary career from disinterested motives, he constantly devoted all the profits of his publications to charitable and benevolent purposes. The work which he first published, and which appeared to give him peculiar satisfaction, was, 'The Power of Religion on the Mind.' This book has passed through many editions. first impression was made at Mr. Murray's own expense, and given away by him chiefly in the neighbourhood of his own residence. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and was much respected and esteemed by them; but, in his writings designed for general use, he scrupulously avoided introducing, in any shape, the peculiar tenets of the sect. moral and religious subjects, he confined himself to the leading principles of piety and virtue, and to the general spirit and precepts of Christianity. Mr. Murray married, early in life, a very amiable woman about three years younger than himself; they had no children, and lived together in uninterrupted harmony for nearly sixty years. As further particulars respecting this estimable man will, no doubt, be acceptable to those who have derived benefit from his literary labours, it is with much satisfaction we have to announce, that 'Memoirs of his Life and Writings' will shortly be published.

18.—saint prisca,

A pious Roman virgin, said to have been put to death by order of the Emperor Claudius, A.D. 47.

*18.—SAINT ANTHONY.

The following absurd but amusing legends respect-

ing our saint, are still current in Portugal, and are thus navrated in a very entertaining volume recently published, entitled, 'Sketches of Portuguese Life,

&c.' 8vo.

In the cathedral church of St. Antonio, called S. Antonio da Seé, you are shewn the same identical crow which, many hundred years ago, conducted a vessel into the port of Lisbon after the loss of its radder in a storm. This wonderful crow was from that time added to the city arms; or rather the arms were from that occasion formed of a vessel in full sail, with a crow on the end of the bowsprit, and another on the stern. These birds were deputed by St. Antonio to the aid of the distressed mariners who had invoked his name. The devil. it is well known. had a particular fancy for tempting this saint; and used to set about it in all kinds of ways. Upon one occasion, having followed St. Antenio up into the belfry, the saint, to rid himself of such company, began to descend the stone flight of steps; but the devil still continuing to pursue him, he turned suddenly round, and describing with his thumb the sign of the cross upon the marble wall, his Satanic majesty evaporated in a trice. As if to commemorate the event, the saint's thumb made a deep impression in the marble: and the truth of the story cannot be doubted, for the very texture of the thumb skin is still discernible.

'But of the feats of so celebrated a saint as St. Antonio of Padua, this was far from being the most considerable, as will appear from the following legend which I take at hazard out of many hundreds:
—St. Antonio was born in Lisbon; but having been educated at Padua, he was always known by the latter name. Whilst at Padua, it happened that his father was arrested at Lisbon, and accused of the murder of a certain individual, an acquaintance of his. Presumptive evidence was so much against him, that the court of justice, after a short deliberation,

condemned him to suffer death, as guilty of the crime laid to his charge: but St. Antonio knowing, as all saints know, every thing that passes in every corner of the globe, and ill brooking his father's exaltation ad patibulum, made a sudden spring (he had been taught gymnastics at Padua) which brought him in one minute and seven seconds into the presence of the astonished justices. after lecturing them a little on their unjust precipitation, he summoned into their presence the soul of the murdered man, and ordered him to name his murderer: when, what words shall express their dismay and surprise at his pointing to one of the sages upon the judges' bench. A smell of sulphur began to pervade the hall of justice; the air was darkened with a thick mysterious cloud; the roll of thunder was heard augmenting by degrees, until, acquiring an awful loudness, it burst with tremendous violence over the petrified assembly; and, finally, when the air cleared away, not a vestige was to be seen either of St. Antonio, his father, or the guilty judge. It was said and believed that the devil had sunk with his prey through the wide-yawning ground; and that by means of another gymnastic spring, the saint resumed his studies at Padua, from whence his absence had been so short, that his preceptor had scarcely remarked it.

Envy and detraction are but feeble opponents to real merit, and this was St. Anthony's case; for his reputation blazed forth in Portugal to such a degree—after he was dead—that, to this day, a clay image of him is seen in every spirit tavern and in every grocer's shop in Portugal: in the former, owing to his well known attachment to good liquor; and in the latter, because the mode of preserving figs and almonds is attributed to his inventive genius. The festival of St. Antonio is kept in pretty much the same manner as that of St. John, by the burning of many bonfires on the eve, and the letting off of great quantities of fireworks: but the former saint has this difference in his

favour, that the boys in every street erect little altars to him, and pester to death every creature who goes by, for money to be employed, they say, in defraying the expenses of the wax tapers burnt at his shrine.

'Although St. Macario is recognised as the Portuguese Hymen, and known by the name of St. Macario casamenteiro (marriage maker), it very frequently occurs that young women in particular prefer St. Antonio in these matters. He is therefore consulted; and if things wear a prosperous aspect, his image is honoured with a quantity of tapers; but if the contrary be the case, he becomes liable to the grossest possible indignities; and I have even known him plunged into places where his situation must have been any thing but pleasant. It is not with lovesick maidens alone that St. Antonio has often to repent of his too extensive reputation; for mariners, who have prayed to him in vain for propitious breezés, at length lose all patience, and flog his effigy lashed to a mast.'

20.—saint fabian,

The 19th bishop of Rome, was chosen to that office in the year 241, and after being bishop 13 years, suffered martyrdom in the Decian persecution.

21.—SAINT AGNES.

She was a beautiful girl, beheaded at the early age of 13, by order of Dioclesian.

22.—SAINT VINCENT,

A deacon of a church in Spain, was born at Saragossa, and under the Dioclesian persecution, in 304, suffered martyrdom of the most dreadful kind.

25.—CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL.

This festival was first instituted in 813; it was not adopted in the ritual of the Church of England until 1662.

29. 1820.—KING GEORGE THE FOURTH'S ACCESSION.

30. 1649.—KING CHARLES I, MARTYR.

This day is memorable in history for the decapitation of K. Charles I, who suffered more from the violence and ambition of his enemies, than the faults of his own character.—See our last volume, p. 16. Some admirable Letters of King Charles I will be found in Mr. Ellis's Royal Letters, illustrative of English History, 8vo, 3 vol. second edition, 1825.

31. 1820.—KING GEORGE IV PROCLAIMED.

*JAN. 1461.—BEGGING SCHOLARS.

Without doubt (says Ant. à Wood) the Scholars of the University of Oxford were now in a poor condition, forasmuch as divers of them were reduced so low, that they were forced to get license under the chancellor's hand and seal (according to a Statute of the Land, enjoining them so to do, that had intentions to beg) to obtain the charity of well disposed people. Some Scholars of Aristotle's hall appear to have had license this year, and doubtless others, though not registered. But that it was usual for Scholars so to do, not only divers circumstances show, but also the Statute before-mentioned. I find a story delivered concerning three Scholars (artists, I believe) who in this age went a begging, and, coming to a rich man's house to ask relief, uttered their requests either by prayer or song. The rich man being somewhat amazed at it, comes in haste to the door, and looking earnestly upon them, said,

From whence come yee?

Ans. From Oxford.

It affords us much pleasure to hear that a Second Series of these Letters is now ready for publication, which, we understand, will abound in popular interest and anecdote, and afford very felicitous illustrations of some hitherto obscure points in English history; and we have no hesitation in giving our credence to this on-dit, when we consider the exhaustless riches of the Museum Collection of MSS., and the refined taste, the sound judgment, and the unconquerable industry of the guardian of these National Treasures.

Quest. Are you not versifiers?

Ans. Yea, and your servants also.

Upon which the rich man conducted them to a fountain or spring near his house, over which on a beam hung two buckets, the one ascending, while the other descended to take up water. After he had shewed to them the meaning of the device, he said to them, let each of you make two verses on the said buckets. or else you shall not receive alms from me. the Scholars scratching their heads and looking wistly upon each other, repeated, after a little respite, each an impromptu Latin distich. Thus they, and this was the way of begging, which the most worthy SIR THOMAS MORE, after his surrender of the Chancellorship of the kingdom of England, and when abilities of purse failed, resolved before his children to follow--- 'If (saith he to them) that exceed our ability, (meaning the fare of New Inn at London. where he had part of his breeding) then will wee the next year after descend to Oxford fare, where many great, learned, and ancient fathers be continually conversant, which, if our power stretch not to maintain neither, then may wee yet, like poor Scholars of Oxford, go a begging with our baggs and wallets. and sing salve regina at rich men's dores, &c.' Though begging was usual with divers of our students, vet were they not singular in it, neither were they the first of Academians that took that course. Scholars of Athens were sometimes very poor and begged their bread, as Boetius well delivereth. Parisians also were brought to that indigence, that the Clerks thereof were forced to procure the Pope's Indulging Bulls to obtain subsidies from the faithful. And, therefore, if the Scholars of Oxford did now do the like, it is no marvaile, seeing that Exhibitions failed, and that times were troublesome and corrupted. - Wood's History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford, by Gutch, 4to. vol. i, pp. 619, 620.

Astronomical Occurrences

In JANUARY 1827.

In once more calling the attention of our youthful readers to the Astronomical Occurrences of the passing year, we cannot do better than remind them, in the language of David, that 'By the word of the Lord were the HEAVENS made; and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth.'—Ps. xxxiii, 6.

Obliquity of the Ecliptic.

Having already explained the nature and variation of this obliquity, particularly in our volumes for 1816 and 1817, we shall merely insert its magnitude for the following epochs during this year.

January 1st, the obliquity is			87.8"
April 1st,	53	87	87-4
July 1st,	23	27	85.9
October 1st,			36 ·1
December 31st,			81.7

The equations of the Equinoctial Points for the same eras are the following, viz.

January	lst,	the equation is	+	14.0"
April	lst.		÷	18.0
		•••••		

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

The Sun enters Aquarius at 6 m. past 6 in the evening of the 20th of this month, and he rises and sets on every fifth day, during the same period, as in the following table. Our readers will bear in mind, that these times are computed for the first meridian of this kingdom, but may easily be reduced to the meridian of any other place, at the rate of 15 degrees to an hour. The times for any intermediate days may also be found by proportion.

	TABLE		
Of the Sun's Rising	and Setting	for every fifth I	Day.
January 1st, Sun rise			
		8 39	
		7 9 7 15	
		7 22	

Equation of Time.

The time indicated by a good sun-dial is not that which should be given by a well regulated clock at the same moment; but these may always be found from each other by means of the Equation of Time, which is the difference between them at any specified hour. This is usually calculated for noon of every day, and is given for that hour on the days specified in the following table. It may be readily found, either for any other intermediate day or hour, by proportion. For more particular information on this subject, see Time's Telescope for 1814, 1816, 1823, and 1824.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Monday, Jan.	lst.	to the time by the dial add	8. 43
			1
			7
			0
		•••••	33
		••••••	
		•••••	

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter Full Moon	5th		42 m.	after		
Last Quarter New Moon	20th	•••••	48		4	afternoon

Moon's Passage over the first Meridian.

Such of our young friends as may be desirous of observing the passage of the Moon over the me-

ridian, will find the following times most convenient for this purpose. These epochs refer to the meridian of the Royal Observatory, but may be reduced to that of any other place in the kingdom with sufficient accuracy by the usual rule of proportion, as in the Equation of Time, and other similar phenomena.

TABLE
Of the Moon's Passage over the first Meridian.

January	lst,	at	16 m. after	in the afternoon
-	2d,	• • •	8	4
				4
				3
	5th.		17	3
	6th.	••••	1	7 in the evening
				7
	8th.	••••	33	8
				9
				0
				D
				6 in the morning
				7
				B

Time of High Water at London.

As the Moon is the chief agent in regulating the Tides, we shall insert the time of High Water at London Bridge for both morning and evening of every fifth day, under the head of Lunar Phenomena. Local circumstances, as winds, &c. may sometimes occasion slight variation, but the epochs specified below will be generally found very near the truth.

Table of Tides.

		Morning.	•	Afternoon.
January 1st,	at	24 m. after	4	4 m. after 4
6th,		5	8	81 8
				57 0
				10 4
				9 8
				8 1
				45 4

When the time of high water is required for any of the days intermediate to those inserted in the Table, it may be found by proportion, as before di-

rected. When it is wished to know the time of high tide at any of the following places,

•		
To the Time, as given for London, add		m.
For Tinmouth Haven, Hartlepool, and Amsterdam	0	30
Brest, Rochelle, and Rochford	1	0
Scilly, Cape Clear, and Leith		45
Mount's Bay, Edystone, and Falmouth		55
Bridlington Pier, Humber, and Antwerp		0
Fowey, Looe, Plymouth, and Waterford		10
Dartmouth, Harborough, Hull, and Sidmouth	3	90
Torbay, Teignmouth, and Cork	3	40
Exmouth, Topsham, and Lyme		50
Bridgewater, Texel, and Cherburgh	4	5
Boston, Bristol, Lynn, and Weymouth	Ã	20
Harfleur, and without the Vlie	5	40
New York, New London, George Town, Savannah	6	30
For the following places, subtract, viz.		
For Leigh, Maes, and Gouries' Gut	0	15
Gravesend, Rochester, and Rammekins		ő
Buoy of the Nore, Flushing, Cadiz, and Yarmouth		20
Portsmouth, Ostend, Shoe Beacon, and Redsand	9	30
Calais, Dover, Harwich, Liverpool, and Spithead	3	10
Orfordness, Gunfleet, Shoreham, and Dieppe	4	0
Brighton. Dunkirk, and Boulogne	4	15
Needles, Cowes, Yarmouth (Isle of Wight)	4	
	9	40
St. Helens, Havre-de-Grace, and Dunnose		30
Poole, Dublin, and Caen		45

The most remarkable high tides during the present year will happen about the 14th of April, the 9th August, and the 7th September; and though these tides will not be so high as some that took place in former years, they may be productive of damage on some parts of the coast, if increased by high winds, &c.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

The beautiful planet VENUS, the Queen of the planetary train, will be a morning star till the 6th of October, and then an evening star till the end of the year. JUPITER will be a morning star till the 30th of May; then an evening star till the 18th of October; and again a morning star to the close of the year.

Phases of Venus.

The phases of this planet varying like those of the Moon, are subject to calculation. The method of doing this has already been explained (see T. T. for 1819, p. 17); we shall therefore leave these computations as exercises for our young astronomical readers, and insert only the results for the first of each month.

January 1st { Illuminated part = 0.30196 | Dark part.... = 11.60674

This planet now presents the appearance of a fine crescent, resembling the new Moon, when it is first perceived gently descending to the western horizon.

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

We must refer our readers to T. T. for 1818, for some useful information respecting these small bodies. The following eclipses will be visible this month at the Royal Observatory, and are recorded in *mean* time corresponding to that place. The times will consequently require a slight correction for any other meridian.

Immersions.					
		25 s. after 2 in the morning			
29 d	59	19			
		30 0 54 9			
		15 3			

Form of Saturn's Ring.

Most of our readers know that this phenomenon is subject to a slow variation, and that we usually insert the proportion of its two axes for every third month. The method of attaining this is explained at p.52 of T. T. for 1819, to which we refer.

January 1st { Transverse axis = 1.000 Conjugate axis = -0.515

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

January 20th, with a in Scorpio, at 2 in the morning.

Other Phenomena.

Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 4th of this month; Jupiter will also be in quadrature

on the same day, between 12 and 1 in the morning. Venus will be stationary on the 13th. Georgium Sidus will be in conjunction at a quarter past 12 in the morning of the 15th. Jupiter will be stationary on the 28th; and Mercury and Georgium Sidus will be in conjunction with each other at 9 in the morning of the 30th.

The following beautiful Stanzas are appropriate to

the season:--

On the New Year.

[By J. E.]

Blest opening of another year!
Thy cheerful sounds dispet the fear
That presses down my soul;
When launching on an unknown sea,
That skirts a near eternity,
I see the billows roll.

How darkly roll! though snowing crests

Edge the blue waves, their gloomy breasts

Heave heavily along;
And vainly scans my feeble thought,
What the year's changes will have wrought,
If God my life prolong.

How long my joys may ebb; my woe,
How high its rising tide may flow,
I leave to Thy command;
This, this shall silence all my fears
In bliss or grief; in smiles or tears,
My times are in Thy hand.

The Naturalist's Diary

For JANUARY 1827.

There lives and works
A soul in all things, and that soul is God.
He marks the bounds which Winter may not pass,
And blunts his pointed fury; in its case,
Russet and rude folds up the tender germ,
Uninjured, with inimitable art.

COWPER.

THE plants at this season are provided by nature with a sort of winter-quarters, which secure them from

the effects of cold. Those called herbaceous, which die down to the root every autumn, are now safely concealed underground, preparing their new shoots to burst forth when the earth is softened in spring. Shrubs and trees, which are exposed to the open air. have all their soft and tender parts closely wrapt up in buds, which by their firmness resist all the power of frost; the larger kinds of buds, and those which are almost ready to expand, are further guarded by a covering of resin or gum, such as the horse-chesnut. the sycamore, and the lime. Their external covering, however, and the closeness of their internal texture, are of themselves by no means adequate to resist the intense cold of a winter's night: a bud detached from its stem, inclosed in glass, and thus protected from all access of external air, if suspended from a tree during a sharp frost, will be entirely penetrated, and its parts deranged by the cold, while the buds on the same tree will not have sustained the slightest injury; we must therefore attribute to the living principle in vegetables, as well as animals, the power of resisting cold to a very considerable degree: in animals, we know, this power is generated from the decomposition of air by means of the lungs, and disengagement of heat; how vegetables acquire this property remains for future observations to discover. If one of these buds be carefully opened, it is found to consist of young leaves rolled together, within which are even all the blossoms in miniature that are afterwards to adorn the spring.

Towards the end of the month, the throstle is seen under sunny hedges and southern walls in pursuit of snails, which he destroys in abundance, particularly in hard winters; he delights also in chrysalids and worms. Other birds now quit their retreats in search of food. The nut-hatch is heard, and larks congre-

gate and fly to the warm stubble for shelter.

During the mild weather of winter, slugs are in

constant motion, preying on plants and green wheat. Their coverings of slime prevent the escape of animal heat, and hence they are enabled to ravage when their brethren of the shell, who are more sensible of cold, lie dormant. Earth-worms likewise appear about this time; but let the man of nice order, with a little garden, discriminate between the destroyer, and the innocent and useful inhabitant. One summer evening, the worms from beneath a small grass-plat lay half out of their holes, or were dragging 'their slow length' upon the surface. They were all carefully taken up, and preserved as a breakfast for the ducks. In the following year, the grass-plat, which had flourished annually with its worms, vegetated They were the under-gardeners that unwillingly. loosened the sub-soil, and let the warm air through their entrances to nourish the roots of the herbage:

Their calm desires, that asked but little room,

were unheeded, and their usefulness was unknown, until their absence was felt.

The hedge-sparrow and the thrush now begin to sing. The wren also 'pipes her perennial lay,' even among the flakes of snow. The golden-crowned wren. from its diminutive size and solitary habits, is not often noticed, and may be easily overlooked; but they are very plentiful wherever there are plantations of spruce firs, to which trees they seem extremely partial, hanging their nests to the under-surface of the lower branches. Though apparently of so delicate a nature, they remain with us all the winter, and appear to suffer less from severe cold than even many of our hard-billed species. It is not at all improbable that, at this season, they may derive their chief support from the smaller tribes of Tipulidæ, many of which are to be found on wing, and in a state of activity at all times of the year, and even occasionally when the ground is covered with snow.

The blackbird whistles; the titmouse pulls straw out of the thatch, in search of insects; and linnets

congregate. Pullets begin to lay; young lambs are dropped now. The field-fares, red-wings, skylarks, and titlarks, resort to watered meadows for food, and are, in part, supported by the gnats which are on the snow, near the water. The tops of tender turnips and ivy-berries afford food for the graminivorous birds, as the ring-dove, &c. The house-sparrow chirps, and the bat is now seen.-The Entomologist will be amply repaid, in this and the succeeding month, by a walk through the fields and woods: and although they may be covered with the fleecy mantle of winter, the industrious collector will readily find objects of sufficient interest to reward his assiduity.—See our last volume, pp. 25, 26; and Mr. Samouelle's Useful Compendium, or Introduction to the Knowledge of British Insects.

Scotian Votany for January.

ALGÆ.

[We are indebted to Mr. Young, of Paisley, for a very interesting series of papers on this subject, which will be continued every month.]

In the cheerless months of winter, when our fields are no longer attractive, and present to the eye only the melancholy aspect of decayed nature, the sea-shore offers to the botanist a rich field for contemplation. At all seasons, the sea-girt rocks are luxuriantly mantied with the marine algor or sea-weeds, and every storm scatters upon the beach some new object worthy of his admiration.

Upon examination, we discover the algor to be very varied in their form, colour, and consistence. Some are thin and diaphanous, while others resemble leather in their appearance. Their colour, especially in delicate species, is very fugacious; but in those of a firmer texture, it is retained for a much longer period. A considerable number of them are red; many are of an olive colour, tending to brown or yellow, while others are of a beautiful green. In appearance some are shrubby, some filiform, and others membranaceous; and these last occasionally are traversed by a midrib. In structure, they differ from land plants, in not appearing to be furnished with continuous vessels; for if one portions of their dried frond or leaf be plunged into water, and another por-

tion exposed to the air, the part immersed remains vigorous, while the rest continues in a dried state. From the power which they possess of elaborating peculiar fluids, and producing their seeds or buds in certain situations, it is concluded that they possess something analogous to circulation: but as yet the nature of that power has not been accurately determined. On the subject of their fructification, very little can be said with certainty. Their seeds, or more probably buds, are found embedded (frequently in a very diffuse manner) in processes arising from, or immersed in, the substance of their frond. In some of the algee the stem is jointed, and for a considerable time this was given as the generic character of the genus conferva; but as some of the smaller cylindrical species acquire a somewhat geniculated appearance before fructification, this by itself is not sufficiently characteristic, and has therefore, with propriety, been given up. Many of the marine algae are provided with distinct air-vessels. and those that apparently want them have in their stem, or frond. empty spaces, of greater or smaller size, which are probably destined to perform the same purposes as the more conspicuous vesicles in other species. At one period, these parts were supposed to be the male fructification, and the tubercles containing the seeds or buds to be the female. At another time, it was thought that they were intended only to give buoyancy to the plant, while others again entertained the idea that they were the respiratory At all events, they perform some important purpose in the economy of this complicated genus. As to their food, it is probable that the principal part of it is absorbed by their frond. as many species have never been found attached, but live and increase while floating about in the ocean: in general, however, they are fixed to rocks and other bodies by processes resembling roots; and as some species appear to be peculiar to different rocks, as chalk, sandstone, &c., it has been supposed that some nourishment may be absorbed by these processes. On our shores. there is a particular situation on which each species is found; for example, the Chordaria fillum, or sea-laces, generally grow in water several fathoms deep. The Laminaria esculenta, bulbosa, digitata, and saccharina, grow in places from which the tide seldom entirely ebbs: the Fucus lorcus, or sea-thongs, in spots uncovered only at the lowest ebbs. On rocks exposed by every tide, the Fucus serratus, together with the Spherococcus crispus and mammillosus, occur lowest down: next comes the Fucus nodosus, and higher up the F. vericulosus; beyond this the F. canaliculatus grows, if only wet at full tide; and, lastly, the Lichina pygmaa vegetates, if but within the reach of the spray. In fresh water lakes and rivers, several species of this family are also to be found: there they generally occur of a green colour; and their characters are very much the same with the sea species which have been considered.

For a long time the marine algæ have been employed both as food to man and animals, as manure, and also in the manufacture of kelp. By the Romans, they were considered as perfectly useless, and by them seem to have been altogether neglected. But since their time, several species have been employed by man as food, as, for example, the Laminaria saccharina (sea belt), L. esculenta (honey ware), Halymenia palmata or dulse, &c.: in some places these are boiled as potherbs, or cooked with butter; the last named species is very frequently eaten, in its recent state, as a salad, or chewed like tobacco. Lightfoot informs us that, in some highland districts, the cattle migrate from the hills to the sea-shore at ebb tide, to feed upon the Fucus vesiculosus.

In many places of the north, the algæ are held in so much estimation for manure, that the inhabitants attempt their cultivation by rolling stones into their sandy bays, and in a short time they become covered with a crop of plants. For manure, every species cast on the shore is employed; and in order to retain their properties, they should be removed immediately from the beach to

the place they are intended to manure.

Some of the marine algae are employed in the manufacture of kelp, in preference to others, although all yield it in considerable quantity. The following species are cut from the rocks, or gathered for this purpose namely, the Fucus vesiculosus, nodosus, serratus, and Laminaria digitata; these are collected and carefully dried upon the shore, chiefly in the months of July and August. When thoroughly dry, a pit is dug in the sand about seven feet wide and three feet deep; in this pit a fire is kindled by means of turf, and the dried algae are laid upon it in small quantities at a time, in order that they may be all burnt. When a sufficient quantity is consumed, the red mass is agitated by means of iron rods till it begins to vitrify; it is then allowed to cool, when it concretes into a selid mass, which is broken up and removed.

In the Arts, several of the delicate species, particularly of Delesseria, are employed to ornament shell-work, cabinets, &c. In order to prepare them for these purposes, all that is required is to wash them in fresh water, and expand their delicate branches with the point of a needle; they are then to be subjected to a moderate pressure between the leaves of a book, and when dry may be fixed with a little mucilage.

The medicinal virtues of the mucus of some species of algee have been much recommended by Dr. Russel in diseases of the glands; and the ashes of all of them have been extolled as an ex-

cellent tooth-powder.

A Polar Winter.

In our preceding volumes, many interesting facts will be found respecting the winters of the Northern

regions. Captain Parry's account of his third youage to the Arctic Circle affords some additional information on the subject, with which we shall now present our readers. It is difficult to conceive, says the gallant captain, any one thing more like another than two winters passed in the higher latitudes of the Polar regions, except when variety happens to be afforded by intercourse with some other branch of the 'whole family of man.' Winter after winter. nature here assumes an aspect so much alike, that cursory observation can scarcely detect a single feature of variety. The winter of more temperate climates. and even in some of no slight severity, is occasionally diversified by a thaw, which at once gives variety and comparative cheerfulness to the prospect; but here, when once the earth is covered, all is dreary and monotonous whiteness,—not merely for days or weeks, but for more than half a year together. Whichever way the eye is turned, it meets a picture calculated to impress upon the mind an idea of inanimate stillness: of that motionless torpor with which our feelings have nothing congenial-of any thing, in short, but life. In the very silence there is a deadness with which a human spectator appears out of keeping. The presence of man seems an intrusion on the dreary solitude of this wintry desart. which even its native animals have for a while forsaken.

Captain Parry's remarks on the effects of cold, and the means of preserving health in high northern latitudes, deserve attention; and display a benevolent vigilance and anxious regard for the safety of his crews, which entitle him to national gratitude. He observes, it may well be supposed that, in this climate, the principal desideratum which art is called upon to furnish for the promotion of health, is warmth, as well in the external air as in the inhabited apartments. Exposure to a cold atmosphere, when the body is well clothed, produces no bad

effect beyond a frost-bitten cheek, nose, or finger. As for any injury to healthy lungs from the breathing of cold air, or from sudden changes from this into a warm atmosphere, or vice versa, it may with confidence be asserted that, with due attention to external clothing, there is nothing in this respect to be apprehended. This inference, at least, would appear legitimate, from the fact that our crews, consisting of 120 persons, have, for four winters, been constantly undergoing, for months together, a change of from 80 to 100 degrees of temperature, in the space of time required for opening two doors (perhaps less than half a minute), without incurring any pulmonary

complaints at all.

After having described the nature of the clothing worn by the men, Captain Parry says, it is certain, however, that no precautions in clothing are sufficient to maintain health during a Polar winter, without a due degree of warmth in the apartments we inhabit. Most persons are apt to associate with the idea of warmth something like the comfort derived from a good fire on a winter's evening at home; but in these regions the case is inconceivably different. Here it is not simple comfort, but health, and therefore ultimately life, that depends upon it. The want of a constant supply of warmth is here immediately followed by a condensation of all the moisture, whether from the breath, victuals, or other sources, into abundant drops of water, very rapidly forming on all the coldest parts of the deck. A still lower temperature modifies, and perhaps improves, the annoyance by converting it into ice, which again an occasional increase of warmth dissolves into water. Nor is this the amount of the evil, though it is the only visible part of it; for not only is a moist atmosphere thus incessantly kept up, but it is rendered stagnant also by the want of that ventilation which warmth alone can furnish. With an apartment in this state. the men's clothes and hedding are continually in a moist and unwholesome condition, generating a deleterious air, which there is no circulation to carry off: and whenever these circumstances combine for any length of time together, so surely may the scurvy, to say nothing of other diseases, be confidently expected to exhibit itself.

To counteract these effects, the discovery vessels were fitted up with Sylvester's warming apparatus, a contrivance of which (says Captain Parry) I scarcely know how to express my admiration in adequate The alteration adopted on this voyage, of placing the stove in the very bottom of the hold. produced not only the effect naturally to be expected from it, of increasing the rapidity of the current of warm air, and thus carrying it to all the officers' cabins, with less loss of heat in its passage, but was also accompanied by an advantage which had not been anticipated. This was the perfect and uniform warmth maintained during the winter in both the cable-tiers, which, when cleared of all the stores, gave us another habitable deck, on which more than one-third of the men's hammocks were berthed; thus affording to the ships' companies, during seven or eight months of the year, the indescribable comfort of nearly twice the space for their beds, and twice the volume of air to breathe in. It need scarcely be added how conducive to wholesome ventilation, and to the prevention of moisture below, such an arrangement proved; suffice it to say, that we have never before been so free from moisture, and that I cannot but chiefly attribute to this apparatus the unprecedented good state of health we enjoyed during the winter.

The extreme facility with which sounds are heard at a considerable distance, in severely cold weather, has often been a subject of remark; but a circumstance occurred at Port Bowen, which deserves to be noticed, as affording a sort of measure of this facility, or at least of conveying to others some

definite idea of the fact. Lieutenant Foster having occasion to send a man from the observatory to the opposite shore of the harbour, a measured distance of 6,696 feet, or about one statute mile and two-tenths, in order to fix a meridian mark, had placed a person half way between, to repeat his directions; but he found on trial that this precaution was unnecessary, as he could, without difficulty, keep up a conversation with the man at the distant station.

The Snow FIEND.
[By Mrs. Radcliffe.]

Hark! to the Snow-Fiend's voice afar That shricks upon the troubled air! Him by that shrilly call I know— Though yet unseen, unfelt below-And by the mist of livid grey, That steals upon his onward way. He from the ice-peaks of the North In sounding majesty comes forth; Dark amidst the wondrous light, That streams o'er all the northern night. A wan rime through the airy waste Marks where unseen his car has past: And veils the spectre-shapes, his train, That wait upon his vengeful reign. Disease and Want and shuddering Fear, Danger and Woe and Death are there. Around his head for ever raves A whirlwind cold of misty waves. But oft, the parting surge between, His visage, keen and white, is seen; His savage eye and paly glare Beneath a helm of ice appear; A snowy plume waves o'er the crest, And wings of snow his form invest. Aloft he bears a frozen wand: The ice-bolt trembles in his hand: And ever, when on sea he rides, An iceberg for his throne provides. As, fierce, he drives his distant way, Agents remote his call obey, From half-known Greenland's snow-piled shore To Newfoundland and Labrador:

^{&#}x27; See her very interesting 'Posthumous Works,' vol. iv, p. 192.

O'er solid seas, where nought is scanned To mark a difference from land. And sound itself does but explain The desolation of his reign: The moaning querulous and deep, And the wild howl's infuriate sweep Where'er he moves, some note of woe Proclaims the presence of the foe: While he, relentless, round him flings The white shower from his flaky wings. Hark! 'tis his voice:—I shun his call. And shudd'ring seek the blazing hall. O! speak of mirth; O! raise the song! Hear not the fiends that round him throng. Of curtained rooms and firesides tell; Bid Fancy work her genial spell. That wraps in marvel and delight December's long tempestuous night; Makes courtly groups in summer bowers Dance through pale Winter's midnight hours: And July's eve its rich glow shed On the hoar wreath that binds his head; Or knights on strange adventure bent. Or ladies into thraldom sent: Whatever gaiety ideal Can substitute for troubles real. Then let the storms of Winter sing. And his sad veil the Snow-Fiend fling, Though wailing lays are in the wind, They reach not then the 'tranced mind: Nor murky form nor dismal sound May pass the high, enchanted bound!

An ALPINE WINTER.

The following beautiful sketch is from the Novel of Valperga, and with this we will conclude our brumal notices for January:—

'He approached the beautiful Alps, the boundaries of his native country: their white domes and peaks pierced the serene atmosphere; and silence, the deep silence of an Alpine winter, reigned among their ravines. As he advanced into their solitudes, he lost all traces of the footsteps of man, and almost of animals: an eagle would sometimes cross a ravine, or a chamois was seen hanging on the nearly perpendicular rock. The giant pines were weighed down

by a huge canopy of snow, and the silent torrents and frozen waterfalls were covered, and almost hid, by the uniform mass. The paths of the vallies, and the ascent of the mountains ever difficult, were almost impassable; perpetual showers of snow hid every track, and a few straggling poles alone guided the traveller in his dangerous journey. The vulture, leaving his nest in the rock, screamed above, seeming to tell the rash adventurer who dared disturb his haunts, that his torn limbs were the tribute due to him, the monarch of that region. Sometimes even the road was strewed with the limbs of the venturous chamois, whose sure feet had failed among the snows: and the approach of Castruccio scared the birds of prev from their repast on his half-frozen limbs: the road was cut in the side of a precipitous mountain; below, the stream, which had cleared its way in the very depth of the valley, was hidden by the over-hanging of the precipice; above, the mountain side, almost vulture-baffling,—black, except where the snow had found a resting-place in its clefts, towered so high that the head became dizzy, when the traveller would have gazed on the walled-in heavens.'

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

January.

The Thermometer ranges in the shade, this month, from 56 in the morning to 70 in the afternoon, Fahrenheit. On the 20th day, the Sun rises at Calcutta 6h. 36m.—sets 5h. 24m.

The evenings are pretty clear, and the mornings sometimes, if not generally, damp and foggy. The days are cool, serene and clear, enjoyed by all except rheumatic and gouty subjects. The wind con-

¹ This Epitome appeared in the 'Imperial Almanack' for 1826: as it will, probably, be new to many of our readers, we have transferred it to our pages.

tinues northerly, and is sometimes pretty strong, but not usually so. Vegetables of all kinds are in the highest state of perfection; the market abounds with green peas, cauliflowers, cabbages, cole, turnips, potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, radishes, young onions, French beans, seem, breenjaut, celery and salad, &c. Beef, mutton, and pork, &c. of the best and most healthy kinds; poultry and game in abundance. Fruit trees, in general, blossom this month, that is, the mangoe, rose-apple, peach, and pumplenose, &c.; the fruit from these may be expected in May and June.-The principal fruits now in season are up-country oranges and pine-apples, but the latter are not good; plantains and cocoanuts may be had throughout the year. N.B. Green cocoa-nuts are excellent in curries; the Malay curries, so highly esteemed for their delicious flavour, owe it solely to the use of this fruit. The fish-market is well stocked, at this season.

FCBRUARY.

FEBRUARY received its name from the word Februa, because the expiatory sacrifices so called took place in this month. The sign of this month is Pisces, indicative of the waters and rains which then flooded the country.

Remarkable Days

In FEBRUARY 1827.

2.—PURIFICATION B. V. MARY,

Or, Candlemas Day. This is the day set apart to commemorate the Purification of the Virgin Mary.—See our former volumes.

3.—SAINT BLASE.

Blase was bishop of Sebasta, in Cappadocia, and suffered martyrdom by decapitation, in the year 289.

Saint Blase is the Patron Saint of the Woolcombers, and some account of the processions made on this day may be seen in our previous volumes. Dyer, in his 'Fleece,' has the following allusions to our saint:—

Thus, in elder time, The reverend Blasius wore his leisure hours, And slumbers broken oft; till filled at length With inspiration, after various thought, And trials manifold, his well-known voice Gathered the poor, and o'er Vulcanian stoves, With tepid less of oil, and spiky comb. Shewed how the Fleece might stretch to greater length. And cast a glossier whiteness. Wheels went round; Matrons and maids with songs relieved their toils, And every loom received the softer varn. What poor, what widow, Blasius! did not bless Thy teaching hand? thy bosom, like the morn, Op'ning its wealth, what nation did not seek Of thy new-modelled wool the curious webs? Hence the glad cities of the loom his name Honour with yearly festals; through their streets The pomp, with tuneful sounds and order just. Denoting Labour's happy progress, moves, Procession slow and solemn: first the rout. Then servient youth, and magisterial eld; Each after each, according to his rank. His sway, and office, in the commonweal; And to the board of smiling Plenty's stores Assemble, where delicious cates and fruits Of every clime are piled; and with free hand Toil only tastes the feast, by nerveless Ease Unrelished. Various mirth and song resound; And oft' they interpose improving talk, Divulging each to other knowledge rare, Sparks from experience that sometimes arise. Till night weighs down the sense, or morning's dawn Rouses to labour man, to labour born.

According to a Catholic writer, St. Blase lived in solitude; wild animals came every day to receive his blessing. A Roman magistrate caused him to be seized and put into prison: here St. Blase worked several miracles; among others, was that of recovering a child from strangulation who had swallowed a fish-bone. Seven women who followed this saint, threw the gods of the Roman magistrate into a lake:

the seven women were ordered to be burnt, and the saint was cast into the lake. St. Blase walked on the water, and sixty-eight pagans immediately followed him, and were drowned. When the saint landed from his aquatic excursion, he was beheaded.

5.—SAINT AGATHA.

Agatha was born in Sicily. She was laid naked upon live coals by order of Quintianus, governor of Sicily, because she refused to yield to his brutal desires, and thus died, Feb. 5th, 251.—See T. T. for 1823, p. 37, for an account of the fête of this saint.

11.—SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

The words Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima (seventieth, sixtieth, and fiftieth), were first applied to denote these three Sundays, when the season of Lent was extended to a fast of six weeks, that is, thirty-six days, not reckoning the Sundays, which were always celebrated as festivals.

*11. 1826.—CHARLES INCLEDON DIED.

He was born in Cornwall, the son of a respectable medical gentleman. Displaying an early taste for music, he was, at the age of eight years, placed in the choir of Exeter Cathedral, under the care of Jackson, the celebrated composer. Here he remained six or seven years, when a truant disposition induced him, in 1779, to enter on board the Formidable man of war, of 98 guns, under the command of Captain (since Rear-Admiral) Cleland. On the West India station he changed his ship, and served on board the Raisonable, of sixty-four guns, then commanded by Lord Hervey, where his vocal powers and sprightliness of character endeared him to the officers and men. In this ship he attracted the notice of Admiral Pigot, commander of the fleet, who frequently sent for Incledon, and sang catches and glees with him and Admiral Hughes. He returned to Eng-

land in 1783, when Admiral Pigot, Lord Mulgrave, and Lord Hervey, gave him letters of recommenda-tion to Mr. Sheridan and the late Mr. Colman; the manager, however, was blind to his merits, and Incledon, determined to try his talents on the stage, joined Collins's company at Southampton, where his first theatrical essay was as Alphonso, in the Castle of Andalusia. Here he continued upwards of a year. when he was engaged at Bath, where he attracted much of the public attention, and obtained the patronage of Rauzzini, who not only took him under his tuition, but introduced him in his concerts. Having again applied in vain at the London theatres, he accepted an engagement at Vauxhall; but in the ensuing winter (October, 1790) made his first appearance at Covent Garden, as Dermot, in the Poor Soldier, with so much success as to obtain a permanent situation, on liberal terms.

Incledon's voice was of extraordinary power, both in the natural and the falsetto. The former, from A to G, a compass of about fourteen notes, was full and open, neither partaking of the reed nor the string, and sent forth without the smallest artifice; and such was its ductility, that, when he sung pianissimo, it retained its original ductility. His falsetto, which he could use from D to E or F, or about ten notes, was rich, sweet, and brilliant. Though Incledon knew little of music as a science, yet such was the excellence of his voice and ear, that he at once became a favourite with the public. He excelled in the pure and energetic English ballad, such as 'Black-eyed Susan,' and 'The Storm,' the bold and cheering huntingsong, or the love-song of Shield, breathing the chaste simple grace of genuine English melody.

*13.—THE CARNIVAL IN PORTUGAL.

The time of year when amusements are most frequent is that of the Intrudo or Carnival, which lasts for about a fortnight before the commencement of

Lent. In the higher classes of society there is, on these occasions, much gaiety, dancing, and playing at round games; but with the exception of a few masks who chance to appear in the course of the soireé, nothing particular distinguishes it as a season of carnival. These masks are more calculated to create gloom than to excite gaiety; for they stalk awkwardly into the room without even an attempt, however wretched, to support the character which they have assumed; and if any children be present, they are sure to get pulled to pieces; for children, it must be observed, instead of being sent early and wholesomely to bed as in England, are, on the contrary, initiated into company at the most tender age, are taught to punt at bank, to play at rondo, to enter into every conversation, and to do in every respect as full-grown people. The consequence is, that both girls and boys have the most wisen and worn-out, pale, meagre, vigil-like aspects imaginable.

In the middling classes, the frolics of the carnival consist in throwing hair powder and water in each others' faces, and over their clothes; and pelting the passengers in the streets with oranges, lemons, eggs, and many other missiles, besides throwing buckets of water on them. Ladies are not unfrequently seen hiding behind a balcony or window shutter, with a huge syringe in their hands, watching the approach of a gentleman, who may be coming along the street, in order to squirt its contents into his eyes. Many, instead of using the latter projectile, provide themselves with small bottles made of India rubber, having an ivory pipe at the end, which, when the bottle is squeezed, projects the water contained in it to a great distance.

Among the rabble there is no low contrivance left untried, in order to vex and plague each other; and this is what they consider admirable sport. A boy will be seen with a long hollow cane in his hand, filled with hair powder, walking behind some poor peasant woman with a basket of fruit on her head; then tapping her on the shoulder with one end of the cane to make her look round, and applying his mouth to the other, he blows its contents into her face and eyes, giving her a most sepulchral look, which excites the merriment of every one but herself. Other fellows have a stuffed glove smeared over with grease and chimney-black, at the end of a long stick, with which they tickle the ears of passengers, who, if they happen to look round, receive from it a slap in the face.

A circumstance which happens to almost every person who dares to walk the streets on the three last days of the Intrudo, is having a long cut paper tail hooked on to his dress behind, which is no sooner done than a cry of "rabo leve"—" he has a tail," is set up on all sides, and will follow him every where, until he becomes aware of the cause of it. common trick is to cut out of a piece of old hat the figure of an ass with very long ears, which being rubbed over with whitening and slapped upon a man's back, leaves a good and distinct asinine impression. and never fails to excite a hearty laugh at the expense of the bearer. At St. Ubes, properly called Setubal, the quantity of oranges scattered about the streets on these occasions, by being thrown at people, would suffice at least, we are convinced, to load five or six vessels of two hundred tons burthen. None but eve-witnesses of the fact can form an idea of the waste of this delicious fruit in the brutal manner abovementioned. In all the towns of the Alemtejo, the same custom is observed; and the whole of Portugal presents, during those three days, a scene revolting and disgusting to any civilized being.—Sketches of Portuguese Life, pp. 224, et seq. See also Ash WEDNESDAY.

14.—SAINT VALENTINE,

This patron saint of love-letters and rhymes has been already sufficiently the subject of much, and learned, and amusing inquiry: it will therefore be useless here to repeat what Mr. Brand, Mr. Bourne, or Pennant, or Gay, or Goldsmith, or Chaucer, and others, have written respecting him. We know that the holy man was a dignitary of the Romish church, was decapitated under the Emperor Claudius, and is in the list of martyrs; and we have only to wonder how his life, calling, or end, could have bred so many superstitions and fancies, and made such a number of pranks and poets. All of us, however, have, at some time or another, owned the soft delusion of his sway; and it were ill behaviour to an old acquaintance not, as usual, to give some poet a chance of confessing the inspirations of his patron saint. following lines, from the pen of an accomplished writer of the day, have not yet run the gauntlet of the world.

MY VALENTINE.

I've seen my lady love's bright eye
Flash brilliance from its seat;
I've heard her voice-like minstrelsy
When the breeze and wind-harp meet:
But dearer was the tear that fell
For those who pined 'neath sorrow's spell;
And that hath won this heart of mine
To claim thee as its VALENTINE.

I've seen thy cheek in gay smiles drest, Like clust'ring flow'rs on summer's vest; Marked thy pure brow in rapture rise, Like Heav'n's bright bow in ev'ning skies; But more I loved thy pitying sigh, As the lone widow paced by; And for that holy trait of thine, Thou art my only VALENTINE.

I've watched thy light foot tripping by
On Heav'n's own angel ministry;
Gazed on thy sweet form's graceful seeming,
The Peri of a poet's dreaming;
But dearer were thy pray'rs that sped
On high, in Nature's hour of dread;
And for these marks of truth divine,
I hail thee my fair VALENTINE.

As sparkling eyes have wept ere now,
And pray'rs been said for fainting breath,
And others sighed full sad as thou,
When the low couch was pressed by Death,—
Yet tear, nor sigh, nor pray'r that fell,
Like thine I heard nor loved so well;
And rival worlds in vain combine
To form so sweet a VALENTINE.

A. M. TEMPLETON, JUN.

For an account of 'olden customs' on Valentine's Day, and the modern devotions paid to this saint at Norwich, see our last vol. pp. 39-42.

18.—sexagesima sunday. See septuagesima, p. 32.

*21. 1826.—EDWARD KNIGHT DIED, ÆT. 52,

The celebrated comic actor: he was born at Birmingham, and was intended by his friends for an artist.—See a Memoir of this popular actor in the Gentleman's Magazine. vol. xcvi, part 1, p. 376.

24.—SAINT MATTHIAS.

St. Matthias was chosen by lot into the apostolical office, in the place of the traitor Judas (see Acts i, 26), and was afterwards murdered by the Jews.

25.—QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY. See SEPTUA-GESIMA, p. 32.

27.—shrove tuesday.

Mr. Simeon, in his Horæ Homileticæ (vol. vi, p. 256), in his Sermon, or Skeleton, on Daniel ix, 3-7, says, 'From the earliest period, even from the time that God first had a visible Church in the world, there have been particular seasons set apart for humiliation, and fasting, and prayer. In the Christian Church, the appointment of forty days at this part of the year (Lent) for that purpose is of great antiquity. The two days with which this season commenced were observed with peculiar solemnity: the one (Shrove Tuesday) was spent in recollecting and confessing their sins; the other (Ash Wednesday) in fasting and supplication. That these institutions

were carried to a very foolish excess, and that they degenerated into very absurd superstitions, under the reign of Popery, is readily acknowledged; but they were good in their origin; and our Church has wisely retained such a portion of them as might tend to the real edification of her members, and if we were more observant of them than we are, we should find substantial benefit to our souls. But, alas! we have run into an opposite extreme, insomuch, that not only the observances are laid aside, but the very intention of them is almost forgotten: and instead of complying with the design which is intimated in the names given to the days, we render them perfectly ridiculous. by substituting a trifling change in our food for the solemn acts of devotion before God.' Then in a note he adds, 'This is evident from the customs of having salt fish on Ash Wednesday, and pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. The latter, in all probability, arose from the people being reminded, or perhaps summoned, by a bell to confess all their sins. παν καμόν. From hence it was called the παν κανόν or pancake bell. Alas! how widely have we deviated from the intention of those who first enjoined the observance of that day!'

This day in Nottinghamshire is also known by the name of Fasten Tuesday; and it is customary in the large towns to ring at ten o'clock one of the charch bells, called Pancake Bell. The good people at

dinner this day eat pancakes.

Tusser, in his 'Ploughman's Feasting Days' (p. 271), says,—

At Shrovetide to shroving, go thresh the fat hen, If blindfold can kill her, then give it thy men. Maids, fritters and pancakes enow see ye make. Let slut have one pancake, for company sake.

Upon which his annotator, Dr. Mayor, remarks, The custom alluded to in this stanza is now probably quite obsolete. I describe it on the authority.

of Hilman, who seems to have witnessed its cele-"The hen is hung at a fellow's back, who has also some horse-bells about him; the rest of the fellows are blinded, and have boughs in their hands, with which they chase this fellow and his hen, about some large court or small enclosure. The fellow with his hen and bells shifting as well as he can, they follow the sound, and sometimes hit him and his hen; other times, if he can get behind one of them, they thresh one another well favour'dly: but the jest is, the maids are to blind the fellows, which they do with their aprons, and the cunning baggages will endear their sweethearts with a peeping-hole, whilst the others look out as sharp to hinder it. After this, the hen is boiled with bacon; and store of pancakes and fritters are made. She that is noted for lying a-bed long, or any other miscarriage, hath the first pancake presented to her, which most commonly falls to the dog's share at last, for no one will own it their due. Thus youth were encouraged, shamed; and feasted with very little cost, and always their feasts were accompanied with exercise."

In the 'Highlands' the most substantial entertainment peculiar to this night is the matrimonial brose (pottage), a savoury dish, generally made of the bree (broth) of a good fat piece of beef or mutton, which, being sometimes a good while in retentum, renders the addition of salt to the meal unnecessary. Before the bree is put in the bicker or plate, a ring is mixed with the meal, which it will be the aim of every partaker to get. The first bicker being discussed, the ring is put into two other bickers successively; and should any of the candidates for matrimony find the ring more than once, he may rest assured of his marrying before the next anniversary. The brose. and plenty of other good cheer, being despatched, the guests betake themselves to another part of the night's entertainment. Soon as the evening circle convenes, the 'Bannich Junit,' or 'sauty bannocks,' are resorted to. The component ingredients of those dainties are eggs and meal, and a sufficient quantity of salt, in order to sustain their ancient and appropriate appellation of 'sauty.' These ingredients, well mixed together, are baked or toasted on the gridiron, and are regarded by old and young as a most delicious treat; and, as may be expected, they have a charm attached to them, which enables the happy Highlander to discover the object of all his spells—his future partner.

A sufficient number of those designed for the palate being prepared, the great or matrimonial bannock is made, of which all the young people in the house partake. Into the ingredients of it there is some particle intermixed, which, in the distribution, will fall to the lot of some happy person, who may be sure, if not already married, to be so before the next anniversary. Last of all are made the Bannick Bruader, or dreaming bannocks, to the ingredients composing which is added a little of that substance which chimney-sweeps call soot, and which contains some charm of which we have not yet come to the knowledge. In baking these last bannocks, the baker must be as mute as a stone—one word would destroy the charm of the whole concern. One is given to each individual, who slips off with it quietly to bed: and, reposing his head on his bannock, he will be gratified with a sight of his beloved in the course of his midnight slumbers.—Stewart's Popular Superstitions of the Highlanders of Scotland, p. 255.

In some parts of Devonshire, particularly at Silverton, it is customary for boys to go round to the houses of the opulent to demand the annual donation of pancakes.

28.—ASH WEDNESDAY.

Of the austerities of the early Christians during the period of Lent, and at other seasons, we have already spoken in our former volumes: some addiional anecdotes of these deluded mortals, who vainly imagined to merit heaven by self-torments, for themselves and others, will prove interesting to the curious reader.

Theodoret, Bishop of Cyrus, who has written the lives of thirty of the antient anchorites of the east, informs us that St. James of Nisibe (who was afterwards made a Bishop) had voluntarily deprived bimself, during his whole life-time, of the use of fire. He lay upon the ground; he never wore any woollen clothes, but only used a girdle made of goatskin.

It is related in the same book, that St. Julian only ate bread made of millet, and that he abstained from the use of almost every kind of drink. St. Martianus never ate but once in a day, and that very sparingly too; so that he continually endured the tortures of hunger and thirst: this hely man had besides, a disciple who never touched either bread, or meat.

St. Eusebius used to wear an iron chain round his body: his continual fastings and other kinds of macerations rendered him so lean and emaciated, that his girdle would continually slide down upon his heels; and Publius the elder voluntarily submitted to mortifications of the same kind.

Simeon only fed upon herbs and roots. St. Theodosius the Bishop used to wear a hair cloth around his body, and iron chains at his hands and feet. St. Zeno never rested upon a bed, nor looked into a book. Macedonius, during forty years, never used any other food than barley, and was not afterwards raised to the dignity of priest, but against his own consent. Bishop Abrahames never tasted bread during the whole time of his being a Bishop, and carried his mortifications so far, as to forbear the use of clear water.

The same Theodoret, continuing to relate the life of the holy Hermits, says, that some of them used to wear iron shoes, and others were constantly burthened with cuirasses inwardly armed with points. Some would willingly expose themselves to the scorching heat of the sun in summer days, and to the nipping cold of winter evenings: and others (continues Theodoret) as it were buried themselves alive in caverns, or in the bottom of wells; while others made their habitations, and in a manner roosted,

upon the very tops of columns.

Some of the Mystics of the fifth century not only lived among the wild beasts, but also after their They ran naked through the desart with a furious aspect. They fed on grass and wild herbs, avoided the sight and conversation of men, remained motionless in certain places for several years, exposed to the rigour and inclemency of the seasons; and towards the conclusion of their lives, shut themselves up in narrow and miserable huts. All this was considered as true piety, the only method of rendering the Deity propitious to them; and by this means they attracted the highest veneration of the deluded multitude. One Simeon, a Syrian, passed thirty-seven years of his wretched life upon five pillars, of six, twelve, twenty-two, thirty-six, and lastly forty cubits high. Others followed his example, being called Stilites by the Greeks, and Sancticolumnares, or Pillar Saints, by the Latins; and, of all the instances of superstitious frenzy, none were held in higher veneration than this, and the practice continued in the East till the twelfth century.

The Rev. T. D. Fosbroke, author of 'English Monachism,' and of the 'Encyclopædia of Antiquities,' now completed in two vols. 4to, has the following beautiful lines illustrative of this subject, in a scarce poem, printed at Gloucester some time since, and entitled 'The Economy of Monastic Life as it ex-

isted in England.'

In days of old, near Egypt's slimy land,
Their feathery leaves where now acacias spread,
Leaving the haunts of man, a mournful band
By Providence and friendly midnight led,
From chase of shouting persecution fled;

Of branches lithe their wattled walls they knit,
Of moss and ivy made their evening bed,
And at their small doors would the day through sit,
Hymning grave canticles, or conning holy writ.

Like birds, unprisoned from a darkling grove,
That the bright eye of prowling hawk beguiled,
The godly race rejoiced at ease to rove;
Some reared thatched chapels, that on hillocks smiled
O'er bosky tufts, and soothed some region wild;
Some, by a martyr's grave, with busy spade
A small room scooped beneath the greensward mild,
An uncouth cross upon the round roof laid,

And of the plot anear a cultured garden made.

Some, where a ring of rugged stones was laid,
Like statues, on a pillar's tow'ring height,
With knees, which Faith had changed to marble, prayed,
Their hoar tress dripped with harmless dews of night,
Their fixed eyes gazed unhurt meridian light;
As when Jove's eagle condescends to play,
His plumes he ruffles, droops his winged might,
Fronts his full eye to the attacking ray,
And dares the shaken locks of Him the Lord of Day.

Some hermits were, who dwelled within a rock
Hollow, indented in a sloping ground,
Above, an antient tree's inclining stock
Spread branchy arms, that shaded all around,
Its crooked roots for beams the loose roof bound,
On one side leaping from an ochreous bed
A huddling brook its serpent courses wound,
The pungent leaves of cresses, which it fed,
Seasoned their dinners spare of roots and coarsest bread.

Sententious those, who dwelled such caves within,
Head-shaking sages, prone to moralize,
And him disciple, who there made his inn;
Their cheeks were hollow, slender was their size,
Through fasting much and studious exercise;
A skull they had, a book of sacred lore,
Much-fingered, and a cross placed leaning-wise;
A stone-chest, what time maudlin ploughmen snore,
In shroud and winding-sheet their frightful persons bore.

In respect to the non-observance of fasting-days in Lent, and of fish-days generally, it is to be regretted, that, in reforming false principles, we renounced salutary practices. Days of abstinence from

flesh-meat, if not prescribed by authority, should be voluntarily imposed on ourselves. If the fisherman purchases bread of the farmer, the farmer in his turn ought to encourage the fisherman, who in peace and war has the highest claims to support. We strangely overlook the advantages of our situation, and prefer subsisting on animals reared at a great expense, to the impoverishment of the country, rather than on fish, which cost nothing save labour and time. complain of the dearness of provisions is ridiculous, while we have only ourselves to blame. Refrain from meat two days in the week, and more land will be saved for the growth of corn. In this island, the supply of fish might always be equal to the demand. It is by the smallness of the consumption that monopolies in fish are supported; and thus half is frequently wasted or thrown away, in order to keep up the price.

*FEB. 1508.—STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

The Schools were much frequented, says Ant. à Wood, with querks and sophistry. All things whether taught or written seemed to be trite and inane. pleasant streams of Humanity or Mythology were gliding among us, and the Greek language, from whence the greater part of knowledge is derived, was at a very low ebb. or in a manner forgotten. Scholars were inconstant and wavering, and could not apply themselves to an ordinary search in any thing. They rather made choice of, than embraced, those things which their reasons were capable of. 'Tis said that where Studies flourish, there Cities do: but now at Oxford, neither study, city or town, (and I believe at Cambridge also) whereby were wanting wise Councellors, and religious Pastors to supply the kingdom. The town of Oxford not only decayed in its trading and riches, but also in its buildings, for want of a well replenished Academy. Those streets and lanes that were formerly populous, became now desolate

and forsaken; and these Halls and Inns wherein learned men had been educated, and acute readings and disputations had been formerly, according to the mode of each age, been discussed, were now employed for base and mechanical uses. Our religious inhabitants, especially the Mendicants, that were sometime ornaments to the University, were now locked upon by the Secular Students as much degenerated, either by omitting those things which their rule required them to do, or else by turning professed enemies to what certain zealous men endeavoured for the public to introduce.—Wood's Oxford, by Gutch, 4to, vol. i, pp. 665, 666.

IMPROVEMENTS IN LONDON.

The year 1825 will ever be memorable in the annals of London; for within that period more novel improvements, changes, and events have occurred in the Metropolis, than during any other corresponding extent of time. The numerous Schemes for the formation of new Companies—the vast speculations arising out of them, tending to the aggrandisement of a few persons and the rain of others, with the utilities of some, and the futilities and impositions of many, may also be said to belong to this period. Though they did not precisely commence with the year, yet they have advanced to maturity, to old age, and decay, in this time; and have been the chief occasion of the many failures which lately spread ruin and dismay through the commercial world.

The following are among the most recent improvements, as detailed by Mr. BRITTON, in the 'Picture of London:'—

A New Palace for his Majesty, on the site of Buckingham House, from designs by Mr. Nash:—The commencement of a Tunnel under the Thames, from Rotherhithe, on the South side, to a place below the London Docks on the North side of the river, from the plans of Mr. Brunel:—The foundation and commencement of a new London Bridge, from the designs of the late Mr. Rennie:—The commencement of New Docks at St. Katharine's, under the direction of Mr. Telford, Engineer, and Mr. Philip Hardwick, Architect:—The Bermondsey Collier Dock, by F. Giles, Engineer, and I. Newman, Surveyor:—A new Post Office, on a large and grand scale, from the designs of Mr. Smirke:—A suite of new Law Courts, at Westminster; a large and magnificent range of buildings in Parliament Street, for the Council Office, Board of Trade, and other Government Offices; and the new central and side fronts to the Bank of England; all from the designs of Mr. Soane:—Several new Churches and Chapels

finished, and others begun:—A spacious wing of the British Museum, by Mr. Smirke: - A large and handsome Hall for the Blue Coat School, by Mr. Shaw:-Two or three spacious and handsome Terraces in the Regent's Park: -- More than 2,000 new houses, connected with and extending the boundaries of London, consisting of detached mansions and villas, squares, streets, lanes, terraces, &c. among which, the spacious and very handsome square at Knightsbridge, and the terraces and mansions in the Regent's Park, will form important ornaments to the Metropolis: -An immense edifice in the Regent's Park, called the Colineum'. from designs by Mr. D. Burton, and intended to display Mr. Hornor's novel Panoramic View of London. With the improvements of the last year, we may likewise class the almost universal adoption of Gas for lighting the streets, shops, and public offices, &c. by which the safety and comforts of the people are materially increased. The M'Adamizing of some of the squares and principal streets, ranks also among the novelties and utilities of the times.

During the last year, some new and important laws were made respecting the Police of London, intended to check the career of crime, and afford greater protection to the honest stranger and inhabitant. The foundation and permanent establishment of the London Machanic's Institute, which owes its origin and principal energies to the indefatigable Dr. Birkbeck, is likewise a new and important feature of the present age. Intimately connected with this, is the London University, which has emanated from the active exertions and influential talents of Mr. Brougham, and Mr. Campbell, the accomplished author of 'The Pleasures of Hope.'

The Western Literary and Scientific Institution, a connecting link between the two last-mentioned, is adapted for clerks, and persons in the middle sphere of life, and intended to furnish them with rational amusement and information. 'The Philomathic Institution,' in Burton Street, and 'The City of London Literary Institution,' in Aldersgate Street, are also calculated to disseminate useful knowledge.

Many other plans have been proposed, and alterations commenced, which are calculated to augment the conveniences, comforts, and grandeur of the Metropolis. Commencing at the western extremity, we find that many considerable squares.

This building, very similar in design, and nearly as large as the Pantheon at Rome, is 180 feet in diameter, by 110 feet in height. It is polygonal in form, and surmounted by an immense cupola, glazed; in front is a grand portico, with six large fluted columns of the Grecian-Doric order, supporting a bold pediment. The machinery and scenery of the interior will be novel and interesting. The sketches made for the projected picture occupy 2000 sheets of paper.

streets, and spacious buildings, are now in progress at Hammersmith, Kensington, Knightsbridge, Chelsea, Pimico, Brompton, Fulham, &c. by which all those places will become connected

with, and form integral portions of this vast capital.

In Hyde Park, besides widening and levelling the roads and paths, the high brick walls have been taken down, and open iron railing substituted—an extensive line of new road has likewise been formed, round the west and north sides, to Kensington Gardens, where a bridge has been raised across the water—some new lodges and gates have been built, from the designs of Mr. D. Burton, which are at once great ornaments to the scenery, and highly creditable to the taste of the architect—a very hand some screen of open columns, with three large entrance gates, from the designs of the same artist, is commenced at Hyde Park Corner, and the South-east angle of the Park is laid out as a

pleasure-garden.

To the North-west and North of London, house after house, and street after street, are raised with such amazing rapidity, that the parishes of Paddington, Mary-la-bonne, and St. Pancras, have been nearly doubled in dwellings within the last five or six years; and these once rural villages, in which the citizen retired to his country villa and garden, and where the milch cows grazed in great numbers on the evergreen turf, are now occupied by an almost endless continuity of buildings. Proceeding along the outskirts towards the East, we perceive that the village of Islington has joined London on one side, St. Pancras on another, and stretched itself over the White-Conduit Fields (formerly much noted by our dramatic and other poets) to the hamlet of Holloway. and through that link to Highgate and Hornsey. The Regent's Canal, connecting the Paddington Grand Junction and other canals West of London, with the Thames to the East, or mercantile side of the City, and skirting the northern suburbs, has occasioned an influx of trade, and its accompanying warehouses, wharfs, &c. at Paddington, Battlebridge, the City Road, and other places. Passing through the parishes of Shoreditch, Hackney, Stratford-le-bow, &c. it has given new features to those places, and contributed materially to augment their population. At the direct eastern extremity of London, we are presented on the map with indications of the East and West India, and the London Docks, those great reservoirs for merchant shipping, and repositories of imported wealth. The St. Katharine's Docks, now forming near the Tower, will increase this species of accommodation, and be a great improvement to a district, where reform and alteration are much required. On the opposite, or Surrey side of the river, are other mercantile basins, called the 'Commercial, or Surrey Docks,' and others are in progress, called the 'Collier Docks.' The projected Tunnel under the Thames is not only a novel object in this part of London, but, if accomplished. with be a wonderful triumph of human talents over seeming impossibilities. Numerous improvements to this district, both on the Surrey and Middlesex sides, will inevitably succeed the completion of that enterprising work; and improvement is here much wanted. On tracing the face of the map, through the parishes of Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Walworth, Newington, Camberwell, and Lambeth, on the south side of London, we perceive much ground fortunately still covered with grass, or appropriated to gardens: these parishes, however, may be said to form an immense connected town in many places, and are again joined to Deptford and Greenwich to the cast, and Peckham, Stockwell, Clapham, Battersea, &c. to the south and south-west. In each and all of these places, we perceive a vast augmentation of new buildings recently 'put up,' and others in various stages of progress.

Astronomical Occurrences

In FEBRUARY 1827.

The Supreme Being has made the best arguments for his own existence in the formation of the heaven and the earth: and Aristotle says, that should a man live underground, and there be conversant with the works of art and mechanism, and then be brought up into the open day, and see the several glories of the heaven and earth, he would immediately pronounce them the works of such a Being as we define God to be.—Addison.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Pisces at 52 m. after 8 in the morning of this month; he rises and sets during the same period as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

	7. Sets 32 m. past 4
	7 41 4
	7 50 4 7 59 4
	65
	6 19 5

Equation of Time.

Having observed when it is exactly twelve o'clock by a good Sun-dial, add the following numbers, and the time will be what should be indicated by a well regulated clock at the same moment. The difference between the times, if any, shews how much the clock is too fast or too slow; and it may, therefore, be regulated accordingly.

TABLE .

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Thursday,	Feb.	lst, to	the tim	e by	the	dial	add	13 14	54 25
Sunday,	 1	Ith,				•••	••••	14	35
Wednesday, .		Hst,	• • • • • •	• • • • •	••••		• • • •	13	

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

First Quarter,		
Full Moon, Last Quarter,		
New Moon,		

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits of the Moon will afford our readers good opportunities of observing her in that situation, should the weather prove favourable at the respective times, viz.

-	•	
February	lst, at lm. after	4 in the afternoon
_	2d, 48	4
	8d, 88	
•	4th, 90	
	5th, 7	
	6th, 55,	
	7th, 48	
	8th, 39	
	9th, 21	
	10th, 9	
•	17th, 8	
•	18th, 58	
	19th, 55	
	20th, 58	A
•	21st, 52	
	29d, 50	

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The high tide at London Bridge will take place at the following times on every fifth day during the present month: for the intermediate days, and other places, the times must be found as already directed.

	3				
	Morn		_	Evening.	_
February				19m. after	
	6th,	12	9	44	9
	llth	35	1	0	2
				0	
				28	
•				44	

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

The illuminated phase of this beautiful planet is now very bright. The proportions are,

It may, perhaps, be necessary to remind some of our young readers, that, on account of the distance of Venus from the Sun, varying so much, she is by no means the brightest in appearance when the illuminated phase is the greatest. By a reference to p.51 of T. T. for 1819, it will be seen that Venus is the most brilliant when the breadth of her illuminated disk is 3·1908. She has, therefore, just passed that point at this time; and will appear very bright during this month, as well as much of the last.

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

The following eclipses of the first and second of these small bodies will be visible at the Royal Observatory this month, according to mean time.

Immersions.

day, at 14m. 20s. afte	
7 . 48	
86 12	
29 44	
17 27	
24 47	

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

February 16th, with a in Virgo, at 7 in the morning

22d, 9 in Venus, ... 9 will be an occultation.

23d, 8 in Capricorn 10 in the morning.

Other Phenomenon.

Mercury will attain his superior conjunction at 9 in the morning of the 21st of this month.

COMPARISON of THERMOMETERS.

As Thermometers with different scales are used for marking the temperature in different countries, and by different travellers and philosophers, and some of our readers may often be at a loss for the method of converting the numbers given by one into those corresponding to another; we shall insert the following Rules for the conversion of the degrees of Fahrenheit's, Reaumur's, and Celsius's thermometers, into each other respectively.-Note. Fahrenheit's thermometer is commonly used in England; Reaumur's, in France: and Celsius's in Sweden. De Humboldt, in his Travels, makes use of the latter; but prefixed to his first volume there is a table, in which the degrees of Celsius's thermometer are converted into those of Fahrenheit. Reaumur's thermometer has the freezing point at 0, and the boiling point is 80°. Celsius has the freezing point at 0, and the boiling point at 100°.

1. To convert the degrees of Reaumur into those

of Fahrenheit.

$$\frac{R\times 9}{4} + 32 = F.$$

2. To convert the degrees of Fahrenheit into those of Reaumur,

$$\frac{(\mathbf{F}-32)\times 4}{9} = \mathbf{R}.$$

3. To convert the Swedish degrees into those of Fahrenheit,

$$\frac{\mathbf{S} \times 9}{5} + 32 = \mathbf{F},$$

4. To convert Fahrenheit's into Swedish, $\frac{(F-32)\times 5}{9} = S.$

$$\frac{(\mathbf{F}-32)\times 5}{9}=\mathbf{S}.$$

5. To convert Swedish degrees into those of Reaumur,

 $\frac{S\times4}{5}$ =R.

6. To convert Reaumur's degrees into Swedish,

 $\frac{\mathbf{R} \times 5}{5} = \mathbf{S}.$

To such readers as are unacquainted with the algebraic expression of arithmetical formulæ, it will be sufficient to express one or two of these in words,

to explain their use.

Multiply the degree of Reaumur by 9, divide the product by 4, and to the quotient add 32, the sum expresses the degree on the scale of Fahrenheit.—2. From the degrees of Fahrenheit subtract 32, multiply the remainder by 4, and divide the product by 9, the quotient is the degrees according to the scale of Reaumur.—Encyclopædia Britannica. See also the Introduction to Myers's Geography, page ccxx, for a fuller explanation of this subject.

Note. R, signifies the degrees on the scale of Reaumur; F, those of Fahrenheit; and S, those of

the Swedish thermometer.

The Naturalist's Diary

For FEBRUARY 1827.

Now winter robes with pure snow, and crowns Of starry ice, the gray grass and bare boughs.

THE weather, which is sometimes very severe throughout the month of February, is more often alternately cold and mild. In our variable climate, we one day experience all the rigidity of winter, and a genial warmth prevails the next; and indeed such changes are not unfrequently felt in the same day. If the season be mild, a walk in the garden will discover to us many pleasing objects; among these, the botanist and the admirer of Nature's beauties will not consider the snowdrop and the crocus beneath his

The CROCUS.

Dainty young thing
Of life!—thou vent rous flower,
Who growest through the hard, cold bower
Of wintry spring:—

Thou various-hued,
Soft, voiceless bell, whose spire
Rocks in the grassy leaves like wire
In solitude:—

Like Patience, thou Art quiet in thy earth, Instructing Hope that Virtue's birth Is Feeling's vow.

The delicate Snowdrop, keeps Her home with thee; she wakes and sleeps Near thy true side.

Will Man but hear!
A simple flower can tell
What beauties in his mind should dwell
Through Passion's sphere.
J. R. PRIOR!

Towards the end of the month, in mild weather, the bloom-buds of the fruit-trees may be seen to swell every day. The laurustinus is still in blossom, and so is the China-rose. The buds of the lilac-tree are very forward. The green-house is an object of attraction in this month.

About the beginning of the month, the woodlark, one of our earliest and sweetest songsters, renews his note. The thrush now commences his song, and tom-tits are seen hanging on the eaves of barns and thatched out-houses, particularly if the weather be snowy and severe. The yellow-hammer and chaffinch are heard towards the end of the month.

The Ringdove.—The Rev. Mr. Jenyns, in a very interesting paper on the 'Ornithology of Cambridgeshire,' published in the Transactions of the 'Cambridge Philosophical Society,' observes, that these birds are exceedingly abundant in Cambridgeshire,

¹ Hone's Every Day Book, vol. i, p. 144.

where they do an incredible deal of mischief by devouring peas, beans, and other leguminous plants. They are well known by their cooing notes, which are heard incessantly from February to October. After that time, they begin to collect together into enormous flocks, which disperse themselves over the country during the day-time to feed, but return regularly home in the evening to roost in their native woods and plantations. Some of these flocks do not wholly separate till very late in the spring, though the greater part pair off for the purpose of breeding by the beginning of March. In the autumn they subsist chiefly upon acorns and beech-mast.

Scotian Botany for February.

LICHENS.

The lichens form a very numerous natural order of plants, and occur generally either in the form of a crust covering rocks, &c., or putting on a more foliaceous or arborescent appearance. They vegetate on every soil, even the hardest, and most barren rocks; and the summits of our bleakest mountains are decorated by their variegated tints. They are exceedingly hardy, and able to resist the effects both of heat and cold: they abound in all climates, and at all seasons, but, like the musei, they grow most luxuriantly in the rainy months. The tichens are destitute of what may be properly called roots; some of them, however, have processes which nearly resemble them, arising from the edge and under surface of their frond or thallus, but by far the greater number are attached, as if by a cement. They are also destitute of what is properly denominated a stem. Their frond, which is analogous to a leaf, is often only a thin crustaceous or foliaceous expansion composed of two parts; the exterior or cortical substance presents but few signs of organization, and is generally of a firm, hard texture, and in many species consists of about half its weight of mucilage and gelatine. The other, or medullary substance (inclosed by the corticle), is soft and cottony, and is apparently vascular. Regarding the anatomical structure of this class, we are much in the dark; for, even by the microscope, no particular spiral or circulating vessels have been discovered.

The lichens sometimes assume a variety of forms, owing to their different parts growing together, or by new luxuriant growths proceeding from parts which have been accidentally wounded or destroyed; for the more simple the organization either in animals or verbiables, the greater is the tendency to the formation or regeneration of new parts, and then they frequently assume various dissimilar forms, even among individuals of the same species. They are all perennial; and many possess the curious faculty of remaining for many years without undergoing any nerceptible change. On the frond of most lichens, numerous small wart-like excrescences are observable: these were long considered as male flowers, and when cut vertically at an early stage of their growth, they are found cellular, and contain granulouslooking bodies, which were, of course, considered as antherse. On a different plant, or upon another part of the same one, frequently a number of cun-shaped processes are to be observed, either growing sessile, or supported upon short footstalks; these, as they become ripe, acquire a darker colour, and when cut, are found to contain a number of egg-shaped bodies, immediately under their crust; these bodies are arranged in a particular manner, and were considered as female flowers: but since the observations of Gaertner, it is pretty generally believed that the contents of these receptacles are neither pollen nor seeds, but a sort of gems or buds. which, when arrived at maturity, separate from their parent, and are dispersed like the gemme of some viviparous grasses.

The lichens, are now considered as gemmiparous vegetables, and only propagated by bud knots, the frond performing the part of a universal receptucle, and the processes already mentioned that of partial receptacles, or apothecia: when these occur of a similar structure in various species, they constitute a generic character, and are said to be regular; when irregular, they afford only specific distinctions, and are then said to be accessory. The apothecia or partial receptacles are to be considered as only a modification of the thallus or frond, though they sometimes have a different colour. If we make a perpendicular section of an apothecium, which has been previously moistened for some hours in water, certain vessels may be seen disposed in vertical rows: these constitute the gemmiparous plate. This plate is firm, smooth, and pellucid, and within it the gemme are observable. In some lichens these buds are not produced in the gemmiparous plates, but in muclei, and each nucleus is invested by a membrane called perithecium: in other species, the gemmæ are dispersed generally through the substance of the frond.

Certain species show a particular predilection for some kinds of rocks in preference to others, as other plants have for particular soits. Thus the Lecanora gelida and Lecidea silicea vegetate upon our hardest rocks, as those of granite, &c. On mica state the Gyropkora polyphilla delights. On porphyritic and trap rock, numerous species reside, as the Parmelia saxatilis, caparata, &c. On limestone, the Verrucaria maura, and on sandstone, near the shore; the Lecanora atra & Parcellus may be plentifully found. All these, however, it must be understood, grow or rocks of differ-

ent mineralogical characters, when influenced by the more essential requisites of elevation and exposure. Besides these, many grow on trees, as *Variolaria*; others on naked heaths, as *Cenomyce*. Some incrust other plants, and others vegetate on stones under the surface of the water.

This apparently insignificant tribe is of great utility in the economy of nature. On rocks, by their decay, a nidus is formed for the growth of mosses, which in their turn afford sufficient soil for the germination of rock plants of greater size, and for the grasses,

In the dreary wastes of Lapland, the branched coralline lichem (Cenomyce rangiferina) affords the chief food of the rein-deer, am animal in which consist the principal riches of the inhabitants: there, even in the winter season, when no other plants are to be had, this lichen is to be found in its most flourishing state, even under the snow. Some, as the Cetraria islandica (Eringo-leaved liverwort) and a few others have been employed by man as food. In Iceland, where it is most abundant, it is collected, and when properly dried is ground into a flour, of which bread, grael, &c. are made. It is also sometimes, even in this country, recommended in pulmonary complaints, and is a light and delicate article of food. To prepare it for use, it is to be previously steeped for some time in warm water, or the water of the first boiling is rejected in order to remove its bitter extractive; it is then to be boiled into a jelly, and eaten with milk.

In the art of Dyeing, several species of lichen are employed, particularly the archil (Roccella tinctoria), the cudbear (Lecanora tartarea,) and the Parmelia Saxatilis & omphaloides, the stoneraw and crotal, of the Highlanders; these are used for communicating their different tints to cloth by most nations in Europe; and particularly in northern counties, and even in Scotland their collection gives employment to many of our Highland families.

THE LAND-ICE OF GREENLAND.

In continuation of our arctic notices in the last month, we subjoin the following. In no country, perhaps, are the wonders of frost, snow, and ice, to be seen in greater perfection than in Greenland. The lone majesty of untamed Nature here predominates; yet there are touches of the beautiful to soften down the rugged scene—rocks lofty and precipitous—mountains covered with eternal frost and snow—ice bergs presenting wild and fantastic shapes, often resplendent with brilliant and diversified hues—meteors spreading their shining streaks over the heavens, and brightening them with nocturnal illumi-

nation—the refraction of the Sun's rays, and the extended powers of vision—the tremendous rupture of immense areas of ice, when ocean is unbound by the Sun's genial warmth; and the frequent presence of the great Leviathan of the deep;—all these are subjects of high and unfailing interest. As it is the lot of few, however, to visit these 'thrilling regions of thick-ribbed ice,' it is a satisfaction to us to contemplate in the narrative of the traveller, or the description of the poet, some account of these 'wastes of snow.'

Among the various phenomena of this frozen region, there is none more remarkable than that of the land-ice running from one end of the country to the other, and covering it with an eternal ice, leaving only some tops of mountains, which rise black and naked above it. When you ascend any of the highest mountains free from ice on the sea-coast, a dreadful view is presented. As far as the eye can reach in every direction, nothing is seen but a glittering surface, which merits the appellation of an icy ocean. This ice is extending every year, increasing in height as well as breadth, and has already occupied the greatest part of the country. When it meets with high mountains, it is checked in its progress till it has reached an equal height, and then proceeds farther without obstruction. An experiment has been made of placing a pole in the earth at a considerable distance from the line of ice, and that place has been found occupied by the ice the following year. Its progress is indeed so rapid, that Greenlanders, who are still living, remember their fathers hunting reindeer among naked mountains, which are now completely covered with ice. It is chiefly in the vallies that the ice is accumulating; and where these reach the sea, and the inner parts of the bays, the ice projects in large blocks over the water. Part of the ice appears to be even and smooth, particularly in the middle; but a part of it very uneven, especially at the extremities towards the naked land, and in those

places where small hillocks have been covered. But if you proceed farther on the ice, that which seemed to be even, consists of vallies with several strata.

The blocks of ice, that form a continuation of the land-ice, and project over the water in the inner parts of the bays, are yearly increasing. The sea below throws its waves over them, and makes such excavations, that in many places large poles of ice are hanging down at the sides, having the appearance of pipes of organs, and in other places it forms immense arches. In proportion as these blocks increase above and become heavier, and the excavations below are extended, immense masses are precipitated into the water. Many bays are really deep enough to receive such ice mountains. As one mass falls down, that which is behind is carried along with it, and thus one follows the other with a tremendous cracking - noise, like a heavy cannonade. The sea, as is easily imagined, is thereby put into a violent motion, and overflows the land to a great height, and this inundation is felt at the distance of several miles. It has even happened that tents pitched at a considerable distance from the sea have been carried away, and the people have perished. Boats are also in great danger.

> As when in northern seas, at midnight dark, An isle of ice encounters some swift bark, And, startling all its wretches from their sleep, By one cold impulse hurls them to the deep.

Such masses of ice are at first precipitated deep in the water, and returning to the surface continue for a long time in motion. Sometimes they are united to the flat ice in the bays by congelation, and thus remain surrounded by it for a time, or they break in their fall the ice which is already formed there. Of a ship imbedded in the ice, Mr. Montgomery has given the following description:—

There lies a vessel, in this realm of frost
Not wrecked nor stranded, yet for ever lost,
Its keel imbedded in the solid mass;
Its glistening sails appear expanded glass;

The transverse ropes with pearls enormous strung, The yards with icicles grotesquely hung.

According to Capt. Scoresby, the cold experienced in these regions, even at sea, is intense: water spilt on a table within 3 feet of a hot air stove was transformed into ice; washed linen became hard and sonorous; and mittens, that had been hung to dry exactly in the front of the fire (the grate being full of blazing coals), and only 30 inches distant, were partially frozen; and even good ale placed in a mug at the foot of the stove began to congeal! A damp hand applied to any metallic substance in the open air, stuck to it; and the tongue, brought into contact with the same, adhered so firmly, that it could not be removed without the loss of the skin. Some of the sailors suffered considerably from partial frost-bites.

As an appropriate companion to our winter-piece of Greenland, we add the following pleasing poem, written expressly for Time's Telescope, by Mr. Richard HOWITT:—

To the Winter's Wind.

Thou traveller cold,
Howl over the waste,
Through the castle's grey walls,
With ivy embraced;
Tear the sere, yellow leaf
From the hoar-frosted spray;
Through the deep forest's gloom
Moan on thy way.

Oh! come thou not here—
Breathe thou not through my door,
For thy music is cold
In the huts of the poor;
But go to the dome
Where the fire shines bright,

And more warm shall it glow In the sound of thy flight.

Go! sport with the ice-drops
That hang from the eaves;
Go! seatter the snow-flakes,
And dance with the leaves:

In the courts of the great
Ring thy hollow-voiced mirth,
But come thou not here,
To the desolate hearth.

Where the casement flew wide
To the Summer-wind's wings,
And sweet was the strain
Of the air-wafted strings;
Where the harp lay reclined
In the rose-perfumed gale—
Oh! go thou not there,
For thou shalt not prevail!

In the vessel that sails
To the East or the West,
Through the night, in the shrouds,
Sing thy song of unrest:
O'er the seas, on the hills,
Spread the sound of thy fear;
Carry gloom on thy wings,
But, oh! come thou not here.

Thou dost speak of the wild
Where in snow man is lost;
Thou dost tell of the ship
That is wrecked on the coast;
And the orphan's sad tale,
That is sighed on the moor—
Oh! thou bringest but pain
In thy sound to my door!

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCTS, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

february.

The Thermometer in the shade this month ranges on a medium from 62 in the morning to 76 in the afternoon, Fahrenheit. On the 20th day, the Sun rises at Calcutta 6 h. 21 m., sets 5 h. 39 m. The weather in the beginning of the month is generally disagreeable; the wind blows from the NW. principally, and sometimes veers round to the NE., blowing cold, attended with clouds and drizzling rain, till about the 20th, when the wind sets in from the southward, and the weather becomes comfortable and pleasant.

The measles, in children, are very prevalent during the whole of this month, and it is perhaps, without exception, the best month in the whole year for it, particularly the latter part. The rheumatism and the gout are now bearable about this time; warm clothing becomes rather troublesome to new comers, but not so with old Indians; the state of their blood, from the debilitating influences of the climate, being considerably under proof, would render it unsafe to think of a change till the middle of next month.

There is very little variation in the markets this month, from the last, with the exception of a greater abundance, particularly in the fish-market, which has the addition of the small hilsah (herrings): the large hilsah (sable fish, or shad) makes his appearance on the shambles in July. The additional vegetables are asparagus, pumpkins, water-melons, and young cucumbers; and of fruits, the custard-apple, mulberries,

bale, &c.

N. B. Various operations of husbandry are now greatly accelerated, from the ground being moistened by light showers.

MARCH.

MARCH was so named from the god Mars, to whom Romulus had dedicated it. The sign of this month is *Aries*.

Remarkable Days

In MARCH 1827.

1.—SAINT DAVID.

DAVID, to whom the 1st of March is assigned, is the tutelar saint of Wales. He was an eloquent preacher, and he may well be regarded as the glory of the early British church. He died at a very advanced age, towards the end of the sixth century.

*1..1825.—LOSS OF THE KENT EAST INDIAMAN By fire, in the Bay of Biscay. The narrative of this awful event, and the almost miraculous escape of many of the crew, by a passenger (Major Macgregor), is one of the most interesting and pious details of a shipwreck that we ever read.

at we ever read.

2.—saint chad.

Chad, or Ceadda, was educated in the monastery of Lindisfarne, and was afterwards made Bishop of Lichfield, where he died in 673, the year in which Bede was born.

7.—PERPETUA,

Was a noble lady of Carthage, who suffered martyrdom at twenty-two years of age, under Severus's persecution, in the year 203.

7, 9, 10.—EMBER DAYS.

The Ember Days, as now established, are the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the first Sunday in Lent; after Whit Sunday, September 14th, and December 13th, respectively.

*10. 1826.—John IV, KING OF PORTUGAL, DIED.

His Majesty, John-Maria-Joseph Lewis, was born May 13, 1767, the son of Maria-Frances Isabella, reigning Queen of Portugal, by her paternal uncle Don Pedro (brother of her father King Joseph). He married, Jan. 9, 1790, Charlotte Joaquima, daughter of Charles the Fourth, King of Spain, and sister to Ferdinand the Seventh, the present king of that country; by whom he had issue: (1.) Maria Theresa, born April 29, 1793, widow of the Infant Don Pedro-Carlos of Spain; (2.) a son, styled Prince of Beira, born in 1795; (3.) Isabella-Maria, born May 19, 1797, married Sept. 29, 1816, to her maternal uncle Ferdinand, the present king of Spain; (4.) Pedro d'Alcantara, born Oct. 12, 1798, proclaimed, in 1822, Constitutional Emperor of Brazil; (5.) Maria-Francescina, born April 22, 1800, married Sept. 29, 1816, to her cousin Don Carlos Isidor, the present Infant of Spain;

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(6.) Isabella-Maria, born July 4, 1801; (7.) Michael, born Oct. 26, 1802; (8.) a Princess, born Feb. 23,

1803; (9.) Maria Anne, born July 25, 1805.

From 1792 his Majesty governed in the character of Regent, in the name of the Queen his mother, who was affected with mental alienation. He succeeded her, March 20, 1816, and was crowned at Rio-Janeiro, to which place he had retired on the invasion of Portugal by Buonaparte, who, in the hope of seizing his person, lost no time in proclaiming that the house of Braganza had ceased to reign.

*10. 1826.—John pinkerton died, æt. 67,

A voluminous and celebrated author and editor. Among his numerous works may be mentioned, the 'Essay on Medals,' 2 vol. 8vo; 'The Medallic History of England to the Revolution,' 4to; 'Modern Geography,' 3 vol. 4to; 'Recollections of Paris,' 2 vol. 8vo; and 'Petralogy, or a Treatise on Rocks,' 2 vol. 8vo. Mr. Pinkerton also edited a 'General Collection of Voyages and Travels,' in 19 vol. 4to. A detached memoir of our author will be found in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xcvi, p. 469.

12.—SAINT GREGORY.

Gregory, commonly called the Great, was elevated to the papal chair A.D. 590. He was a man of rank, talents, education and piety; and furnished a rare instance of a Roman pontiff anxious to promote a knowledge of the Scriptures among all ranks and classes of persons.—See our last vol., p. 64.

*14. 1826.—G. H. NOEHDEN, LL.D. DIED, ÆT. 56, Assistant-Keeper of the Antiquities and Coins at the British Museum. Dr. Noehden was born at Goettingen, in the kingdom of Hanover, Jan. 23, 1770. Mr. Suchfort, the then Head Master of the Grammar-school of that town, a man eminent for classical learning, and to whom even Michaelis and Heyne intrusted their sons, instructed him in the classics, and professed a great partiality for him. Not contented with the acquisition of the antient, Noehden cultivated early the modern languages, and his proficiency in Italian, French, and English, was rapid.

In 1788 he was entered of the celebrated University of his native place, and applied particularly to classical literature and antiquities under Heyne, who, becoming his chief master and patron, employed him in collating several Greek MSS, particularly that of the Iliad, in the possession of the late Mr. Townley, for his edition of Homer, in the preface to which he alluded to Noehden's services in a manner highly honourable to his public.

In 1791 Mr. Richard James Lawrence, now of Crawfurd-street, Marylebone, a gentleman who had acquired considerable property in the West Indies, repaired with his lady and two of his sons to Goettingen, for the education of the latter. Having himself been brought up at Eton school, he had a high value for classical studies, and applied to Heyne for a proper tutor in that branch of learning. Heyne recommended Noehden, who conveyed his instructions first in the French, and after some practice in the English language. He was afterwards tutor to three sons of the late Sir W. Milner. In 1800 appeared the first edition of his excellent 'German Grammar,' adapted to the use of Englishmen; and in 1812 he compiled a Pocket Dictionary of the German Language.

In 1814 and 1815 he made an extensive tour on the Continent. and in 1818 accepted an invitation to Weimar, to superintend the education of the children of the Hereditary Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar. At that elegant court, justly styled the German Athens, he was treated with distinction, and would have been content to end his days there, had he not previously resided so long in this country. England, where he had enjoyed the hap-piest hours of his life, and met with so many sincere friends, was indelibly impressed on his memory, and ever uppermost in his thoughts. He did not conceal his regret to his numerous correspondents in this country. Accordingly, a situation in the BRITISH Museum having become vacant, his friends, especially General Milner, uncle to his late pupils, and Lord Milton, exerted themselves so strenuously in his favour, that notwithstanding a competition of nearly thirty aspirants, he was appointed to the place. After a short residence, he quitted Weimar for Italy, and while at Rome, received these happy tidings, together with a summons of immediate return to his insular friends.

Thus, in 1820, he found himself nominated to an employment congenial to his taste. For some time he had the care of a portion of the library in that National establishment; but when, in 1821, he published a translation of Goethe's Observations on Leonardo da Vinci's celebrated picture of the Last Supper, with an Introduction and Notes, the Trustees of the British Museum discerned that he would be more suitably placed in the department of Antiquities and Coins, of which, owing to the malady under which the gentleman holding that situation laboured, Dr. Noehden soon obtained the entire superintendence. That to the

study of antient and modern art, and more especially to Numismatology, he had directed his particular attention, was satisfactorily demonstrated by the publication of his 'Northwick Coins,' which, but for an unfortunate circumstance beyond his control, would have extended to eight or twelve numbers, but was concluded about a fortnight before his death, with the fourth number, In 1823, when the Asiatic Society was instituted, they chose him their honorary Secretary, the functions of which post he dis-

charged with his usual punctuality.

Dr. Noebdon was highly esteemed by all who knew him, for the strict rectitude of his principles, his various and profound attainments, and the captivating suavity of his manners. Among his papers no complete manuscripts were found ready for the press, but only fragments, consisting of, 1. An Introduction to Numismatology; 2. a Translation of some Chapters of Wilfekelmann's 'History of Art,' undertaken, it is understood, at the instance of Lord Colchester; 3. a Translation of part of Lessing's Laccoon; 4. numerous Journals of his Travels.—For further particulars of Dr. Noebden, see an original Memoir in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xevi, part I, p. 466.

17.—SAINT PATRICK.

This is the tutelar Saint of Ireland; he died about the year 460: see our former volumes. At the grand ceremonial of installation of the Knights of the Order of St. Patrick, the following admonitions are read to them upon their being invested with the sword, the mantle, and the collar, by the Chancellor and Registral:—

Upon putting on the sword: Take this sword to the increase of your honour; and in token and sign of the most illustrious Order which you have received, wherewith you being defended may be bold strongly to fight in the defence of those rights and ordinances to which you be engaged, and to the just and necessary defence of those that be oppressed and needy.

Upon putting on the mantle: Receive this robe and livery of this most illustrious Order, in augmentation of thine honour, and wear it with the firm and steady resolution, that by your character, conduct, and demeanour, you may approve yourself a true servant of Almighty God, and a worthy brother and Knight

Companion of this most illustrious Order.

Upon putting on the collar: Sir, the loving company of the Order of St. Patrick hath received you their brother, lover and fellow; and in token and knowledge of this, they give you, and present you this badge, the which God will that you receive and wear from henceforth to his praise and pleasure, and to the exaltation and honour of the said illustrious Order

and vourself.

The celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Ireland is thus pleasantly narrated by our fair correspondent M. L. B. 'Every one is expected to wear a sprig of shamrock in honour of the saint and his country. and a few pence will supply a family with plenty of this commodity. In the morning, upon the breakfast table of "the Master," and "the Mistress," is placed a plateful of this herb, for a memento that it is Patrick's Day, and they must "drown the shamrock:" a figurative expression for what the servants themselves do at night in glasses of punch, if the heads of the family are so kind as to send down the plate of shamrock crowned with a bottle of whiskey, under which is also expected to be found a trifle towards a treat. While the lower circles are, on this blessed of all Irish days, thus enjoying themselves in the evening, the higher are crowding into that room of the castle (entitled St. Patrick's Hall) which is only opened two nights in the year,—this, and the birth-night (the 23d of April): it is a grand ball, to which none can be admitted who have not been presented and attended the Vicerov's drawing-rooms; and of course every one must appear in court dresses or full uniforms, except that, in charity to the ladies, trains are for that night dispensed with, on account of the dancing. A few presentations sometimes take place, after which the ball commences; always with a country dance to the air of "Patrick's Day," and after this, quadrilles, &c. take their turn. St. Patrick's Hall is a noble room, but would, perhaps, strike the stranger as too narrow for its length; it is

rich in crimson and gold draperies; the ceiling is splendidly painted with scenes from the marvellous life of Erin's saint; and a flood of light descends on the brilliant company from three magnificent chandeliers, whose starry coruscations are reflected from myriads of rare gems, and from eyes far more delightful to look upon. In short, the tout ensemble is most brilliant, delightful, and joyous; and cold must be his heart, and deadened his feelings, who can view this scene of mirth and splendour, and not, for one night at least, identify himself with the generous and mirthful sons of St. Patrick.'

18.—EDWARD, KING OF THE WEST SAXONS.

He was stabbed at Corfe Castle, Dorsetshire, March 18th, 978, by order of Elfrida, his stepmother. The custom of *pledging* while drinking had its origin in the perpetration of this murder.—See T. T. for 1824, p. 69.

21.—SAINT BENEDICT

Was an Italian devotee of great austerity of manners. He was born in the dukedom of Spoleto about the year 480, and died in the year 542.

25.—MIDLENT SUNDAY.

The middle or fourth Sunday in Lent was formerly called the Sunday of the Five Loaves, the Sunday of Bread, and the Sunday of Refreshment, in allusion to the gospel appointed for this day. It was also called Rose Sunday.—An account of a curious Lent procession at Lisbon is given in our last vol., p. 61.

25.—ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, OR LADY-DAY.

This festival, which was intended to celebrate the angel's message to the Virgin Mary, respecting the Saviour of the world, was instituted about the seventh century.—See our former volumes.

The Portuguese labourers of every description begin on Lady-day to enjoy, throughout the summer, the right of indulging in the sesta or meridian nap,

from one o'clock until three p.m. This being a comfort to which they attach great value, they have a feast on that day at the chapel of Nossa Senhora dos Prazeres, our lady of enjoyments; which is situated near Fonte Santa on the north-west side of the city. Michaelmas the right of sesta ends, and they celebrate its termination by a mock funeral procession, arranged pretty much upon the same order of march which is observed when the sacrament goes to visit the sick. In front, are three men; the centre one carrying a mortar board suspended to a pole like a banner. while the others carry emchadas (large hoes) upright. in imitation of lanthorns. An old tin water-pot serves for the bellman's use: and the incense-bearers carry mud baskets suspended by three or four strings. these they put a few lighted coals; and throwing something upon them to create a smoke, they swing the baskets to and fro as if they were censers. The trowels, pick-axes, mallets, &c. all are made to represent something connected with church ceremonies: and the dress of this brotherhood consists of a common sack with a hole at the bottom for the head to pass through, and one on each side for the arms.-Sketches of Portuguese Life, &c.

*25. 1826.—THE HON. AND RIGHT REV. SHUTE BARRINGTON,

Lord Bishop of Durham, Count Palatine and Custos Rotulorum of the Principality of Durham, Visitor of Baliol College, Oxford, and a Trustee of the British Museum, died, æt. 92.

This venerable prelate, the youngest son of Lord Viscount Barrington, the learned and pious author of Miscellanea Sacra, and the friend of the immortal Locke, was born in the year 1734. He was educated at Eton and Merton College, Oxford, where he took the degree of A.M. 1756, LL.D. 1762. In 1769, he was consecrated Bishop of Landaff; in 1782, translated to the see of Salisbury, and in 1791 to

that of Durham. In 1761 he married Lady Diana Beauclerk, daughter of Charles, second Duke of St. Albans, who died in 1766, without issue; and in 1770 he was united to a sister of Sir William Guise, Bart. of Mongewell House, Oxfordshire, who died in 1807, likewise without issue. His lordship filled his high, princely, and arduous situation with singular prudence and liberality. Few bishops have been more solicitous to select deserving persons on whom he might bestow his valuable preferment. He founded schools in his diocese, and, together with his friend the late Sir Thomas Bernard, was the chief founder of the society for bettering the condition and increasing the comforts of the poor. He was one of the earliest and most strenuous supporters of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which he continued to be till his death, when he bequeathed £500 to its funds. His charities during his life were large, and his bequests ample and numerous. He gave £1000 to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. literary works were chiefly sermons and charges, besides a new and enlarged edition of his father's Miscellanea Sacra.

*MARCH 1625.—WATER-WORKS AT ST. GERMAIN'S.

This palace was built by Henry IV: Louis XIV was born there, and our K. James II found a retreat at the Revolution, and died there in 1701. It is described in 1625 as the principal royal residence. The palace of the Louvre was not to be compared with it. Dr. Heyhn, in his 'France painted to the Life,' gives the following description of a scene, to create which required no common application of mechanical powers; anticipating, by many years, the hydraulic wonders of Versailles and Marly.

Let us now take a view of the water-works, and here we shall see, in the first water-house, which is a stately large walk, vaulted over head, the effigies of a dragon, just against the entrance: an unquiet

beast that vomiteth against all that come nigh it. At the end, towards the right hand, is the statue of a nymph sitting before a pair of organs. Upon the loosing of one of the pipes, the nymph's fingers began to manage the keys, and brought the instrument to yield such a music, that, if it were not that of an organ, it was as like it as could be, and not be the Unto the division of her fingers her head kept a proportionable time, jolting from one shoulder to the other, as I have seen an old fiddler at a wake. In the same partition were the counterfeits of all sorts of mills, which before very eagerly discharged their functions, but upon the beginning of the harmony they suddenly stood still, as if they had ears to have heard At the other end towards the left hand, we saw a shop of a smith, another of joyners, and others full of sawyers and masons, all idle. Upon the first command of the water they all fell to their occupations. and plied them lustily; the birds every where, by their singing, saving the artificers the labour of whistling. Besides, upon the drawing of a wooden curtain. there appeared unto us two tritons riding on their dolphins. and each of them with a shell in his hand, which interchangeably, and in turns, served them instead of trumpets. Afterwards follows Neptune himself, sitting in a chariot drawn with four tortoises, and grasping his tricuspis, or threefold sceptre, in his hand; the water under them representing all the while a sea somewhat troubled. Thirty-six steps from the front of the house we descended into this water-house, and by sixty more descended into a second of the same fashion, but not of an equal length with the other. At the right hand of this is the whole story of Perseus and Andromeda, and the whole lively acted; the whale being killed, and the lady loosed from the rock very perfectly. At the other end there was shewed unto us the resemblance of Orpheus, playing on a treble viol; the trees moving with the force of the music, and the wild beasts dancing in two rings about

him.' Our traveller very reasonably adds, 'that this invention could not but cost King Henry a great sum,' because 'one string of the fiddle being by mischance broken, cost King Lewis, his son, 1,500 livres.'

Astronomical Occurrences

In MARCH 1927.

PROBABILITY of the CELESTIAL ORBS BRING INHABITED.

I not believe that the great Architect
With all these fires the heavenly arches decked
Only for show, and with these glistening shields
T' amaze poor shepherds watching in the fields;
I not believe that the least flow'r which pranks
Our garden bowers, or our common banks,
And the least stone, that, in her warming lap,
Our mother earth doth covetously wrap,
Hath some peculiar virtue of its own,
And that the glorious Stars of Heaven have none.

SYLVESTER'S Du Bartas.

Solar Phenomena.

THE Sun enters Aries at 3 m. after 9 in the morning of the 21st of this month; and he rises and sets during the some period, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's	Rising	and Setting	for every	fifth Day.
--------------	--------	-------------	-----------	------------

March	ı İst,	Bun rises 36	m. atter () Bets	24 m. past	5
	6th			3	35	5
					45	
					54	
					4	
					14	
					94	

Equation of Time.

When apparent time, which is that indicated by a good Sun-dial, is known, mean or true time is found by adding to it the numbers in the following Table, finding those for the intermediate eras by the common rule of proportion.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Thursday 1st,						44	,
Tuesday 6th,							
Sundavllth,	 		• • • •	 	 10	24	
Friday 16th,	 	• • • • •		 	 9	0	
Wednesday 21st,							
Monday 26th,	 		• • • •	 	 5	59	
Saturday 31st.							

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

					in the evening
Full Moon	18th	•••••	9	 0	in the morning
New Moon	27th		2	 . 0	

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

Should the weather prove favourable at the respective times, the following epochs will afford opportunities of observing the passage of the Moon over the meridian: viz.

March	3d,	at	14	m.	after	4	in the afternoon
							••••••

							in the evening

							•••••
							in the morning
2	Oth.	••	53			5	***************************************

							•••••

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The following are the times of full tide at London Bridge for several epochs during the present month; and if to these the numbers given under the head of January be added, the times of high water at the places there named will be obtained.

TABLE OF TIDES.

				M	orning.	After noon.					
March	lst,	at		m.	after	4	at	16	m.	after	4
	6th,		34			7	• • • • • •	3			8
	11th.		12			U		38			Ō
	16th.		51			3	•••••	10			4
	21st.		18			8	•••••	56			ā
	26th.		9			ĭ	•••••	34			ĭ
	31st.	• •	16			4	*****	33		•••••	4

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

The following is the proportion of the phases of this planet at the commencement of the present month, viz.

March 1st, { Illuminated part = 5.73828 Dark part.... = 6.26172

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

~	• .
I mm	ersions.

First Satellite	, 2d	day, at	23 m.	20 s. after	in the morning
	3d	•••••	51	43 10) in the evening
•) in the morning
					3
					in the evening
					in the morning
Second Satellite,	26th	• • • • • •	1	34 11	at night
	6th	• • • • • •	50	2 1	l
	14th		24	87 9	in the morning
	21st	•••••	59	27 4	

Emersion.

31st 32 .. 51 11 at night Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

March 15th,	with a in Virgo, at	2 in the afternoon
22d,	B in Capricorn	5
20tii,	Mercury,	2 in the morning

Other Phenomena.

Saturn will be stationary on the 1st of this month, and in quadrature at half-past 9 in the evening of the 20th. Venus will attain her greatest elongation on the 5th, and Mercury on the 18th. This last planet will also be stationary on the 26th; and Jupiter will be in opposition at a quarter past 12 in the morning of the 31st.

We shall close the Occurrences for this month with the following beautiful lines on

STARLIGHT.

There come no seasons there:—our earthly year Varies from prime to fall, from flowers to snow, And each new month fresh trophies still doth rear To Change, the victor of all fields below;—But ye, oh ye, fair heavens! for ever glow In the young glory of your natal morn, When first the realms of space were bade to know Their starry kings, Creation's earliest-born, Who should for aye on high you sapphire thrones adorn.

Thus did ye shine upon the faded past,
Thus will ye shine on far futurity,
With living light, and beauty born to last
When the least earthly things of earth shall be
Passed, like the oar-foam from the settling sea.
Eternity is your 'sweet hour of prime':'
Ye smile at ages; for your destiny
Hath bathed you in some skiey Styx, that time
Might blench no golden tress, nor dim one eye sublime.

Shine on—shine on—ye radiant thousand, shine! Ye hosts of heaven, whose everlasting march Is one enduring triumph! Ye divine Memorials, on the amethystine arch Of Nature graven by God! Oh, ye who parch The hearts of dust for what they may not know, Tempting you azure wilderness to search, As if some glad oasis there did glow—"Twas but a bright mirage, and will for aye be so!

Familiar strangers! Ye who from our youth Gleam on our eyes to prove how dark and blind Is human thought, where Fancy ekes out Truth, And shadowy dreams usurp the place assigned To life's realities, from which the mind Flies to ideal worlds, peopling the stars With shapes of love and beauty—far behind The truth of their bright mystery, which it mars, Because it may not pass Fate's adamantine bars.

¹ Milton.

This has been computed to be about the number of stars visible at once to the naked eye.

The blue Pacific of Infinity,
Gemmed with the sacred islets of the skies—
Each isle a world upon a sapphire sea,
And every world perchance a paradise!
There only that sweet vision of the wise
And tuneful of past times is not a dream—
There only do those Blissful Isles arise,
Whose fame yet murmurs on the Muse's stream,
But whose proud shades did no'er on mortal waters gleam-

Say, ye who shone on Zoroaster's eye,
And lit the midnight towers of golden Tyre,
Who smiled more purely, from a softer sky,
On Helen's grave and Homer's wakeful lyre—
Have ye known all, and must not man aspire
To aught beyond him? Shall no earthly ear
Drink, at dim midnight, from your shining quire
Empyreal music? Can we not draw near,
And read the starry tale of yon mysterious sphere?

No, for the stamp of clay is on the brow—
The fettered spirit yearns to soar in vain—
And the ambition of man's thoughts must bow
Beneath mortality's recoiling chain.
Yet is it sweet, though we can ne'er attain
The prize we woo, the lofty race to run:
What though it tempt to you untrodden plain?
The eagle's burning goal can ne'er be won—
But he may pierce the clouds, and feel the nearer sun!

And this is much—for who would e'er forego,
Beautiful strangers! the delicious power
To make his spirit in your glory glow
At solemn midnight's solitary hour—
To woo the gentle heavens with all their dower
Of thought from immemorial Eld bequeathed?
Yon high Elysium holds full many a flower
With no Pierian laurel yet enwreathed—
O that around my lyre one such its incense breathed!

Sweet, passing sweet, to fill those far abodes
With scenes more bright than this dim world e'er knew—
With beings nobler than poetic gods—
With winds whose breath is bliss—with streams whose hue
Pales the clear diamond, as they murmur through
Evergreen woods to seek a deep more fair—
With sacred flowers that shed immortal dew
Round the pure feet of them who wander there,
On starrier skies to muse, in happier fates to share.

^{&#}x27; The Fortunate Islands.

But sweeter far to dream that in some world, Some distant world, that gems the blue night's dome, The spirit's wings, on earth in darkness furled, May woo the soft winds of a lovelier home! As Beauty sprung from the pure ocean-foam¹, May not Truth float on the rich depths of song?— But where, oh where, would fond conjecture roam? Our clueless phantasies may stray too long The labyrinthine bowers of Night and Heaven among.

The Naturalist's Diary

For MARCH 1827.

Stern Winter's sky no more with tempest lowers,
To arctic climes rough Boreas steals away,
And vernal breezes and refreshing showers
Are now companions of the lengthened day.

The modest snowdrop, harbinger of Spring, Now greets the eye with robe of virgin white; With joyful notes the birds begin to sing At peep of dawn to hail the new-born light.

Pleased with young life, the sportive lambs are seen Striving in mimic race with guileless mirth;
Kind Nature now prepares her garb of green
To clothe her flow'rets teeming into birth.
At this sweet season let not man be sad,
While bounteous Heaven makes all around him glad.

THERE are frequently mornings in March, when a lover of nature may enjoy, in a stroll, sensations not to be exceeded, or, perhaps, equalled by any thing which the full glory of summer can awaken:—mornings which tempt us to east the memory of winter, or the fear of its recurrence, out of our thoughts. The air- is mild and balmy, with, now and then, a cool gush by no means unpleasant, but, on the contrary, contributing towards that cheering and peculiar feeling which we experience only in spring. The sky is clear, the sun flings abroad not only a gladdening

Alluding to the mythological account of the nativity of Venus, thence called Aphrodite, i. e. the foam-born.

splendour, but an almost summer glow. The world seems suddenly aroused to hope and enjoyment. The fields are assuming a vernal greenness,—the buds are swelling in the hedges,—the banks are displaying, amidst the brown remains of last year's vegetation, the luxuriant weeds of this. There are arums, groundivy, chervil, the glaucous leaves, and burnished flowers of the pilewort,

The first gilt thing Which wears the trembling pearls of spring;

and many other fresh and early bursts of greenery. All unexpectedly too, in some embowered lane, you are arrested by the delicious odour of violets—those sweetest of Flora's children, which have furnished so many pretty allusions to the poets, and which are not yet exhausted; they are like true friends,—we do not know half their sweetness till they have felt the sunshine of our kindness; and again, they are like the pleasures of our childhood, the earliest and the most Now, however, they are to be seen in all their glory—blue and white—modestly peering through their thickly clustering leaves. The lark is carolling in the blue fields of air: the blackbird and thrush are again shouting and replying to each other from the tops of the highest trees. As you pass cottages, they have caught the happy infection. There are windows thrown open, and doors standing a-jar. The inhabitants are in their gardens, some cleaning away rubbish, some turning up the light and fresh-smelling soil amongst the tufts of snowdrops and rows of glowing yellow crocuses, which every where abound; and the children, ten to one, are busy peeping into the first bird's nest of the season—the hedge-sparrow's, with its four blue eggs, snugly, but unwisely, built in the pile of old pea-rods.

In the fields, the labourers are plashing and trimming the hedges, and in all directions are teams at plough. You smell the wholesome, and we may

truly say, aromatic soil, as it is turned up to the sun, brown and rich, the whole country over. It is delightful as you pass along deep, hollow lanes, or are hidden in copses, to hear the tinkling gears of the horses, and the clear voices of the lads calling to them. It is not less pleasant to catch the busy caw of the rookery, and the first meek cry of the young lambs. The hares are hopping about the fields, the excitement of the season overcoming their habitual timidity. The bees are revelling in the yellow catkins of the sallow. The woods, though yet unadorned with their leafy garniture, are beautiful to look on; they seem flushed with life. Their boughs are of a clear and glossy lead colour, and the tree-tops are rich with the vigorous hues of brown, red, and purple: and if you plunge into their solitudes, there are symptoms of revivification under your feet, the springing mercury, and green blades of the bluebells—and perhaps, above you, the early nest of the missel-thrush perched between the boughs of a young oak, to tinge your thoughts with the anticipation of summer.

These are mornings not to be neglected by the lover of Nature; and if not neglected, then, not to be forgotten, for they will stir the springs of memory, and make us live over again times and seasons, in which we cannot, for the pleasure and the purity of our spirits, live too much.

Our valuable contributor, the Delta of Blackwood's Magazine, has written expressly for our volume an appropriate 'MARCH INVOCATION,' which

This fresh and beautiful description of 'March Mornings' was a gratuitous offering to the indefatigable Mr. Hone by our friend and correspondent WILLIAM HOWITT, and we have reprinted it from the 'Every Day Book,' because in our volume it forms the first of a series of very delightful observations on the months of April, May, June, and July, illustrated by original poetry, and which now appear, for the first time, before the public.

is admirably descriptive of the various appearances of nature in this month.

Come hither, come hither, and view the face Of Nature, enrobed in her vernal grace:—By the hedgerow way-side flowers are springing; On the budding elms the birds are singing; And up—up—up to the gates of heaven Mounts the lark, on the wings of her rapture driven: The voice of the streamlet is fresh and loud; On the sky there is not a speck of cloud; Come hither, come hither, and join with me In the season's delightful jubilee!

Haste out of doors—from this pastoral mount The isles of ocean thine eye may count-From coast to coast, and from town to town. You can see the white sails gleaming down. Like monstrous water-birds, which fling The golden light from each snowy wing: And the chimnied steam-boat tossing high Its volumed smoke to the waste of sky: While you note, in foam, on the yellow beach, The tiny billows, each chasing each, Then melting like cloudlets in the sky, Or Time in the sea of Eternity! Why tarry at home?—the swarms of air Are about—and o'erhead—and every where— The little moth opens its silken wings, And from right to left like a blossom flings, And from side to side, like a thistle-seed. Uplifted by winds from September mead: The midge and the fly from their long, dull sleep Venture again on the light to peep. Over lake and land abroad they flee. Filling air with their murmuring ecstasy: The hare leaps up from his brushwood bed, And limps, and turns its timid head; The partridge whirrs from the glade; the mole Pops out from the earth of its wintry hole: And the perking squirrel's small nose you see From the fungous nook of its own beech tree.

Come, hasten ye hither—our garden bowers
Are green with the promise of budding flowers—
The crocus, and, Spring's first messenger,
The faery snowdrop, are blooming here;
The taper-leafed tulip is sprouting up;
The byacinth speaks of its purple cup;

The jonguil boasteth, 'Ere few weeks run. My golden sunlet I'll show the sun :' The gilly-flower shoots its stem on high. And peeps on heaven with its pinky eye; Primroses. an iris-hued multitude. By the kissing winds are wooing and wooed: While the wall-flower threatens, with bursting bud, To darken its blossoms with Winter's blood. Come here, come hither, and mark how swell The fruit-buds of the jargonelle: On its vet but leaf-let greening boughs The apricot open its blossom throws: The delicate peach-tree's branches run O'er the warm wall, glad to feel the sun; And the cherry proclaims of cloudless weather. When its fruit and the blackbirds will toy together See, the gooseberry bushes their riches show; And the currant-bunch hangs its leaves below; And the damp-loving rasp saith, 'I'll win your praise With my grateful coolness on harvest days.' Come along, come along, and guess with me How fair and how fruitful the year shall be!

Look into the pasture-grounds o'er the pale, And behold the foal with its switching tail, About and abroad in its mirth it flies, With its long black forelocks about its eyes, Or bends its neck down with a stretch, The daisy's earliest flower to reach. See, as on by the hawthorn fence we pass, How the sheep are nibbling the tender grass, Or holding their heads to the sunny ray, As if their hearts, like its smile, were gay; While the chattering sparrows, in and out, Fly the shrubs, and trees, and roofs about; And sooty rooks, loudly cawing, roam With sticks and straws to their woodland home.

Out upon in-door cares—rejoice
In the thrill of Nature's bewitching voice!
The finger of God hath touched the sky,
And the clouds, like a vanquished army, fly,
Leaving a rich, wide, azure bow,
O'erspanning the works of his hand below:—
The finger of God hath touched the earth,
And it starts from slumber in smiling mirth;
Behold it awake in the bird and bee,
In the springing flower, and the sprouting tree,

And the leaping trout, and the lapsing stream, And the south wind soft, and the warm sunbeam:— From the sward beneath, and the boughs above, Come the scent of flowers and the sounds of love; Then haste thee hither, and join thy voice With a world's, which shouts, 'Rejoice! Rejoice!'

Δ

The wheatear, or English ortolan (Sylvia cenanthe), again pays its annual visit, leaving England in September. Those birds which have passed the winter in England now take their departure for more northerly regions; as the fieldfare, the red-wing, and the woodcock.

In March, trouts begin to rise, and blood-worms appear in the water. The clay hair-worm is found at the bottom of drains and ditches (see T. T. for 1823, p. 85), and the water-flea may be seen gliding about upon the surface of sheltered pools.—See T. T. for 1824, p. 88.—Towards the end of the month, frogs spawn. Of the Surinam frog, and the remarkable changes it undergoes, a good account is given by Mr. Ireland, in a communication to the Journal of Science and the Arts. Linnæus himself, at one time, considered the animal to be a species of lizard. and arranged it under the genus Lacerta; afterwards he placed it under the genus in which it now stands. with the specific name Piscis. By others it has been considered not to be the larva or tadpole of a frog. but to change from a frog to a fish; indeed, they are considered as such by the natives, and are by them denominated jackies. The size is commonly from six to eight inches long, and in the beginning of the dry season they are generally regarded as a great delicacy for the table. At this period, their appearance is precisely that of a fish, and the relater having procured a number of them in this state, alive, confined them in a tub in order to watch their change, and contrived to have vegetables growing in the water, for the purpose of renovating its air. Upon a minute examination, two small legs might be perceived immediately behind the head, which are to become the hind legs of the frog. In about a fortnight these legs arrive at a considerable size, and the body of the animal is very much enlarged: during this change the animal remains in a very torpid state. In about three weeks the animal becomes more active and lively, and the fore legs make their appearance, and the head becomes distinct. From this period till about the sixth week the animal is always seen with part of its head above the surface of the water, and is extremely active and strong. During this last change, the tail partly sloughs off, and is partly absorbed; and the process being now completed, the animal is a perfect frog, and leaves the water never to return.

It is a curious circumstance, that, till now, no naturalist at Surinam has ever described these changes from his own observations; it may be added, that none of the natives seem to be acquainted with the transformation, and those who saw them in their different stages of actual change, could never afterwards

be persuaded to eat them.

Of all our summer visitants, observes Mr. Jenyns, in his 'Ornithology of Cambridgeshire,' the lesser pettychaps is undoubtedly the earliest, often arriving by the middle, or at latest by the end of March. Although diffused in tolerable plenty over most other parts of the country, yet in the neighbourhood of Bottisham it is of very uncertain appearance, as in some instances not a single individual is seen there, whilst in others they are abundant. It is a restless and an active bird, and is much attached to spruce firs and other tall trees, from the tops of which it issues its incessant but monotonous song, consisting only of two loud piercing notes, which it continues through the summer, and even till late in September.

Young otters are produced and young lambs are yeaned this month. This latter is one of the prettiest, yet most pathetic sights that the animal world presents: the early lambs dropped in their tottering and bleating helplessness upon the cold skirts of winter, and hiding their frail forms from the March winds, by crouching down on the sheltered side of their dams: their constant enemy, the raven, keeping a sharp look-out for them, this bird, about this time. frequenting sheep-pastures, and watching for any young lambs that may be dropped feeble or dead. They are speedily noticed by the raven, and their eyes immediately pulled out. The raven has always been a bird held in great veneration by mankind, much of which it no doubt obtained from its repeated mention and agency in Scripture. He was the messenger of Noah, and the first bird that flew under the heavens, upon the waters of the great deluge: he was appointed to sustain the prophet Elijah in the wilderness, and is three or four times mentioned in the sacred writings as under the peculiar care and protection of Providence. The changes in our manners and ideas, in many things, have deprived the raven of much of this reverence, yet he is a bird of some eminence still: with the exception of the snipe, there is no bird so universally dispersed over the whole surface of the globe, inhabiting every zone, the hot, the temperate, the severe; in all of which he is serviceable to mankind, by devouring and removing noxious substances. In England they are sparingly seen, except during the lambing season; one pair inhabiting a certain district, and driving all others from its vicinity. But in some warm climates where animal matter is often plentiful, and rapidly acquires a state of putrescence, even in Greenland and Iceland, where refuse of fish abounds, the raven is much more commonly to be found. Like all other carnivorous birds, they frequently mount high in the air, and cool their blood in a more temperate region. They are remarkably strong upon the wing, and we see them at times passing over our heads at a considerable elevation, and pursuing their journey with such strength and power, as enables them to make a greater progress in their flight than even wild fowl. Their objects in these hasty transits are by no means obvious: should they be hastening to their prey, be it from acuteness of discernment, a sense of smelling. or any other faculty, it exceeds our comprehension. That birds of prey are remarkably gifted with olfactory powers we have repeated conviction; but we cannot comprehend the probability of a creature's possessing a sensibility so acute, as to receive intimation of a substance, and be drawn by it from the extremity of one county to that of another. All these circumstances, its antient note, the obscure knowledge we possess of its powers and motives of action, renders the raven a bird of some interest, and entitles it to our notice. Antient writers upon natural history accuse this bird of severity, and unnatural feelings towards its offspring.—Tusser, in his March Husbandry, says.

Kill crow, pie, and cadow, rook, buzzard, and raven, Or else go desire them to seek a new haven;

but in answer to such directions, and the practice of many farmers at the present day, it may be observed that in our moist climate, which naturally generates insects, if it were not for birds, and even some of those which are proscribed by vulgar prejudice, the fruits of the earth would be almost wholly destroyed. doubt some species of the feathered tribes may become too numerous, if protected; but it is only during seed-time and harvest that birds do any injury, while their important services are continued the year round. Were parishes to pay for the destruction of vipers, and of rats, it certainly would be more sensible and beneficial than setting a price on the heads of spar-As for rooks, they are of the first utility to the farmer; and even the crow and cadow, or jackdaw, are not destitute of valuable qualities, which may indeed be affirmed of the predaceous race, in general the least favoured of any.

The brimstone-coloured butterfly (Gonepteryx rhamni), which lives throughout the winter, is usually seen in March. It is found in the neighbourhood of woods, on fine and warm days, enjoying the beams of the noonday sun. Some of our most beautifully coloured butterflies belonging to the genus Vanessa, as V. Atalanta, Io, Polychloros, and Urticæ, are seen in this month; and the Antiope, or Camberwell beauty, has once been captured at this season.—See Mr. Samouelle's Entomologist's Useful Compendium, an iffdispensable guide for every one who devotes his time and attention to the interesting study of insects.

Scotian Botany for March.

In March, the face of nature resumes its verdant robe, and a few of our early plants begin to unfold their blossoms. So soon as the middle of the month, some species of willows, salix (diæceous shrubs having the male flowers on one plant and the females on another) are to be seen, adorning the marshes and river banks with their drooping yellow catkins. In the sterile plant, the stamina are not always of the same number, but in general they are diandrous; and in the fertile ones, the seeds are turnished with a simple hairy appendage which facilitates their dispersion. No less than 43 distinct species are enumerated by Dr. Hooker as . indigenous to Scotland. Some of these are noted for their agreeable odour, as the Salix pentandra; the bark of others, particularly that of S. caprea and Russelliana, is used in the art of tanning. The twigs of the S. viminalis, common osier, are employed for making baskets, and the wood of the white willow, S. alba, is used for various domestic purposes. In this country, willows are the first plants which afford food to the bees, and they, as if grateful for their sweets, aid in performing the great and important end of reproduction, by depositing the prolific pollen of the male catkins upon the stigmata of their females. We may also admire a beautiful instance of design in their flowering before the leaves are developed, and moreover in a windy season of the year, thus securing by these different contrivances both their fecundation and the dispersion of the seeds.

On some clayey soils, the coltsfoot, (Tussilago farfara) is -displaying its citron-coloured flowers; this, like other early plants, pleases the botanist as being among the first harbingers of Flora: by the gardener and the farmer they are looked upon in no such light, but as one of their most troublesome and unwelcome intruders. Its roots are thick and diffusely spreading, and prove very injurious to the ground by sending up numerous large round leaves. This plant and the *T. petasites* (common butter bur), so abundant on river banks, with large umbraceous heart-shaped leaves, the writer planted in his garden several years ago, on account of their early flowers, and there they still remain, notwithstanding many efforts to have them expunged. Both the flowers and leaves of the first named species hold a place in domestic pharmacy; their infusion, mixed with vinegar and sugar, is given in coughs, and, boiled in milk, it forms a popular remedy

in pulmonary complaints.

Under the shelter of hedges, the red dead-nattle (Lamium purpureum) displays its modest, purple flowers, in company with the dandelion (Leontodon taraxicum) and the common groundsel (Senecio vulgaris). The dandelion is a well-known hardy plant: it is to be met with in flower at all seasons, and in almost every locality. .On the continent, its young leaves are blanched, and used as a salad, and by that means they are in agreat measure deprived of their acrid, milky juice. This juice was formerly much employed by physicians as a digretic in dropsy and other similar complaints. The groundsel, another plant belonging to the same family, namely Syngenesia, has small flowers of a yellow colour. The whole plant is eaten greedily by small birds confined in cages. and by the common people it is employed in fomentations and cataplasms. On banks with a southern exposure, the barren strawberry (Potentilla fragaria), and the gowan, or common daisy (Bellis perennis), are to be found. The first of these is adorned with its little handsome white flowers, and possesses much of the character of the strawberry, but is destitute of runners: the flowers are composed of five obcordate petals; its stamina arise from a beautiful reddish circle on the receptacle, and its leaves are of a silvery whiteness underneath. The daisy, although every where common when the season is advanced, at present is only to be found in favourable exposures, where it opens 'its modest crimson-tipped flowers,' and lifts its unassuming head in humble guise.

The common furze (Ulex europæus) already adorns our otherwise bleak hills with its yellow papilionaceous flowers. In calm, sunny weather, when the year is farther advanced, it is curious to observe the contrivance by which it scatters its seeds: so long as the pods remain juicy and the seeds are in a green state, they continue closed, but when ripe they split with a considerable noise, owing to the elasticity of their valves, and propel the contained seeds often to a very great distance. The ulex is a very bardy plant, and being well defended by numerous spines it forms a very good fence, and may be made to grow in the bleakest situations. The spines, or thorns of this plant contain a prolongation of its wood; they are, therefore, very strong, and well calculated

to defend it from the attack of animals which would otherwise injure it. We find in the vegetable creation many plants that are thus shielded, and it is curious to observe the contrivances to that effect. Thus it is said of the common holly, which is not unfrequent in our hedges, that after it has acquired a considerable attisted, it loses its prickles altogether, as if aware that in those situations they would be no longer useful. In other plants, these thorns may be made to disappear by cultivation, and are then said to be tamed. In some plants, the permanent footstalks of decayed leaves afford a substitute for thorns. In the rose, the prickles are formed entirely from the outer bark; and, in the common nettle we find the stings much more slender, but they are furnished with a wenomous fluid. In contemplating all these beautiful provisions of Nature, an intelligent mind will find no less gratification than in observing the rich variety of her floral tints.

ÉPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

March.

The Thermometer ranges this month in the shade, upon a medium, from 70 in the morning to 85 in the evening, Fahrenheit. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta, 6 h. 2 m.—sets 5 h. 58 m. The weather throughout this month is delightful indeed. Thus, while the thermometer plays at summer heat, refreshed by a cool and favoured southerly breeze, the long established Anglo-Indian feels his cold blood meandering through the terpid veins, which gives a zest to every vital power, and makes him think himself again a vouth. Meats continue in good condition. Green peas and turnips disappear this month; salad, cabbages, carrots, and celery, on the decline; asparagus and potatoes continue good; green mangoes are now in request for pickling, and are also used in curries; the omrah, water-cresses, and greens are plenty. Fish plenty, and the gooteah (a small delicious fish) comes now into the market. Water-meloss appear in the middle of this month, and continue in perfection till the middle of June.

The prices of articles, in the bazaar of Calcutta, are (with little variation) the same all the year round:

best mutton may be had at two rupees the quarter or saddle; the best veal at two and a half rupees per quarter; a sirloin of the best beef for three rupees, and so on in proportion to its quality down to one rupee for the sirloin, edge-hone, or round. Fowls are from two to eight for one rupee, according to their size; ducks from two to eight, geese from two annas to six rupees per pair; wheat is from fifteen annas to one rupee six annas per maund (of 84 lb.), according to the quantity in the market; rice from three rupees to one rupee per maund, according to its quality, and other articles may be procured in a like proportion.

This month generally ends with north-westers, accompanied with thunder, lightning, and heavy rains.

APRIL.

APRIL derives its name from aperire, to open, because the earth then appears to open to new productions. Venus was its tutelar divinity. Taurus is the sign of this month.

Remarkable Bays

In APRIL 1897.

1.—ALL or AULD FOOLS' DAY.
For particulars of this day, see our former volumes.

l.—fifth sunday in lent.

Dominica in Passione, or Passion Sunday, was the name given to this day in missals; as the church now began to advert to the sufferings of Christ. The following account of the origin of this day is given in the 'Festivall,' fol. 25. 'Dere frendes: This daye our Lord Jhesu Cryste begane his passyon: for this daye the Jewes hadde such an evye to hym, bycause he tolde theyr defautes, and vyces, and meslyvynge,

and soo for this cause they repreved hym; so this daye they were full asserted to do hym to dethe.' The Gospel, appointed to be read in the church on that day, was then, as it still is, the 8th chap. of St. John, v. 46, &c. where the Jews take up stones to cast at Jesus; and thence the name appears to have originated.

3.—RICHARD, Bishop.

Richard, surnamed de Wiche, from the place of his birth, was consecrated bishop of Chichester in 1245, and died in 1253.

*3. 1826.—the bishop of calcutta died, æt. 42, The Right Reverend Reginald, Lord Bishop of Calcutta, was the second son of the Reverend Reginald Heber, of Marton Hall, York, and of Hodnet Hall, Salop, a clergyman remarkable for his amiableness as well as learning. He was the son of Thomas Heber, Esq., of Marton Hall, one of the oldest families in that district of Yorkshire. Mr. Reginald Heber had been fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and rector of Chelsea. The rectory of Hodnet, which he subsequently held, was in the patronage of his own family, by bequest from the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Vernon, of Hodnet, Bart. He married in 1773, Mary, the third daughter and coheiress of the Reverend Martin Baylie. She died in the following year, leaving an infant, the present member for Oxford University, Richard Heber, Esq. well known as a literary character and eminent collector of bibliographical rarities. In 1782, Mr. Heber married a second time, Mary. the eldest daughter of Dr. Allanson, rector of Wath in Yorkshire. by whom he had the subject of the following memoir, who was born in the year 1784.

Reginald, the late Bishop, was sent, at the usual age, to Oxford. He was first of Brasenose College, whence he was elected a fellow of All Souls. Previous to this, he paid a visit to Russia, in company with Mr. Thornton. The journal of his travels in that country, from which copious extracts are given in Dr. Clarke's great work, with a compliment from that traveller, evince a remarkable talent for observation at an early age, for he could have been little more than seventeen. In 1801 he gained the Chancellor's prize at the University by his 'Carmen Seculare,' a very spirited and classical specimen of Latin verse. In 1803, his spirited were displayed to still greater advantage in his celebrated poem of 'Palestine,' which gained the prize for English verse. His father, Mr. Reginald Heber, was present in the theatre,

and had the felicity of witnessing the great triumph of his sen. when only nineteen years of age. It seemed as if his life had been reserved until this sure pledge of his son's future eminence; for immediately upon his return home, he was seized with a dangerous malady, under which he lingered, with intervals of remission, until the month of January 1804, when, in the 76th year of his age, he closed an exemplary life in the most exemplary manner, exhorting his children to the last, to continue stedfast in re-

ligion, and put their trust in God and their Saviour.

In 1805, young Heber produced an English essay, 'The Sense of Honour; and in 1808 he took the degree of M.A. In 1809 he published a poem entitled 'Europe, Lines on the present War,' which met with great approbation. In the same year, he published his 'Palestine,' to which he added 'The Passage of the Red Sea, a Fragment,' a piece displaying great boldness of comception and vigour of execution. Soon after this he relinquished his fellowship and married: his patrimonial preferment, the rectory of Hodnet, being of sufficient value to render a dependence upon college preferment unnecessary. In 1812 he published a small volume of poems and translations; and in 1815 he was chosen to deliver the Bampton lectures before the University of Oxford; an office which he discharged with great ability. lectures, conformably to the directions of the founder, were published the ensuing year, under the following title: 'The Personality and Office of the Christian Comforter asserted and explained, in a Course of Sermons on John xvi, 7.' This was his first appearance in the character of a theological writer, in which he did not dissappoint the sanguine expectations formed from his juvenile talents in poetry. The Quarterly Reviewers, speaking of these sermons, say: 'His conception is, in our judgment, strong, his imagination fertile, his expression nervous, and his general style well sustained. They are highly creditable to the talents and learning of Mr. Heber.

In 1822 an edition of the works of Jeremy Taylor appeared, to which was prefixed a life of the bishop, written by Mr. Heber, which is highly commended by Mr. Dibdin, as 'a charming and instructive piece of biography.' It was separately published soon afterwards, accompanied by a critical examination of the bishop's writings. In May 1822, Mr. Heber was chosen preacher

at Lincoln's Inn.

Upon the death of Dr. Middleton, the bishopric of Calcutta was offered to Mr. Heber, who, although in possession of clerical preferment of nearly equal revenue to that of the see, and justified in indulging sangaine hopes of advancement in England, if ambition had been his object, consented to sacrifice his comforts and his expectations, in order to make his talents useful, for a toilsome life in a distant and unbealthy clime. He was appointed to the

vacant see 14th May 1823, and arrived at Calcutta the 11th Oct. following: The University of Oxford conferred upon him the

degree of D.D. by diploma, in June.

The confidence inspired by a knowledge of the new bishop's learning, talents, and activity, caused this appointment to be haited as a most auspicious event by the Christian world at large: His intention to devote himself wholly and fervently to the eatablishment of the Christian religion, by every prudent means: was explicitly declared in his addresses, previous to his departure; to the various societies in England engaged in the work of conversion. The ardent hope, which he expressed to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, that he might be a useful instrument in the propagation of our religion, will not be forgotten: nor the zeal with which he declared he looked forward to 'the time when he should be enabled to preach to the natives of India in their own language.' His first charge, at his visitation, on the 27th May 1824, abundantly proved the high spirit in which he

entered upon his office.

To detail the expeditious manner in which his lordship redeemed the pledge he gave previous to his departure, to describe the indicious and prudent manner in which he exercised his high ecclesiastical jurisdiction throughout the extensive territories which compose his diocese, to specify the long and laborious journies he performed from one side of the vast Indian peninsula to the other, including the island of Ceylon, performing at each station the active duties of an apostolical bishop, would be a superfluous waste of our readers' time, since they must be familiar with the evidences of these facts from the statements furnished by the Asiatic Journal for the last two years. The follow-inguia a passage in the last report of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, read before the Archbishop of Canterbury. several bishops, noblemen, clergymen, and gentry, in May last: 'The efforts of the Society in India have received a powerful impulse from the cordial co-operation of that eminently pious and learned prelate, who now presides over the church of India. His vigorous and active mind is anxiously directed to the general advancement of religion in his diocese; but in the concerns of this Society he has at all times evinced a peculiar interest and zeal.

The minutize of his inquiries into the ecclesiastical system of India, his sound and skilful suggestions for its improvement, his exectiont counsel to the Societies in this country, are strongly displayed in a copious letter which his Lordship addressed to the Christian Knowledge Society, in December last, portions of which have appeared in various religious publications; the whole is given in two successive numbers of the Christian Remembrancer for June and July last. We forbear quoting from this letter. which has probably been read by all who are interested in the

We have only to express:a hope that subject of which it treats. his prudent suggestions may be hearkened to, and that 'though

dead he may yet speak.'

It is needless for us to add, after what we have stated, that the loss sustained by those who have at heart the success of missionary exertions in India, is, through the death of Bishop Heber. great indeed. The sensation which the event has produced in the public mind throughout India, including members of government as well as private individuals, natives as well as Europeans, and the very flattering tributes already paid to his memory there, evince the value set upon his character in that country.

His lordship had recommenced his journies into the distant parts of his diocese. He arrived at Tanjore on the 25th of March. Each day till that of his departure was devoted to some public office connected with his ecclesiastical functions; on the evening of the 26th (Easter Sunday), his lordship gratified the native congregation, at the mission chapel of Tanjore, by pronouncing the

benediction in the Tamul language.

- On the 31st of March be left Tanjore, and arrived at Trichinopoly on the 1st of April; and on the next day (Sunday) he preached twice. On Monday, April Sd, he visited a congregation of native christians. This day, and the day previous, he complained of head-ache, and was unusually drowsy; but no sorious apprehensions were entertained by himself or his friends. On his return from his visit he entered a bath, as he had been acenstomed; he was soon afterwards seized with apoplexy, and expired in the water. The examination of the head, after death, showed that the vessels were turgid.

- The mental character of the bishop combined qualities not often found in unison. He possessed liveliness and solidity, imagination and judgment. At the outset of his literary career. he was reproached with treating serious subjects in a style approaching too much to the poetical: his maturer writings prove how well his reflection had corrected this error. Although his capacity for poetry, and the success he acquired in this:department of literature, justify a belief that he had a penchant for the cultivation of it, yet his serious concerns seem to have absorbed his whole mind, and to have left no room for attention to that or other studies unconnected with his episcopal duties.

Of his lordship's poetical talents, we cannot, perhaps, afford a more elegant specimen than the following lines, which against scribed on the monument of a child in East-Bourne Church. They are translated from a beautiful Greek hymn of Synesius. 7 1

Bishop of Cyrene:-

Grant me, seleased from matter's chain. To seek, O God, thy home again; Within thy bosom to repose, From whence the stream of Spirit flows! A dew-drop of celestial birth, Behold me spilt on nether earth; Then give me to that parent-well, From which this flitting wanderer fell!"

4.— SAINT AMBROSE.

St. Ambrose was born at Arles in France, about 333. He was a most earnest and powerful opposer of the Arian heresy. After an eventful life, he died in 397.—See our last volume.

8.—PALM SUNDAY.

In the missals this day is denominated Dominica in ramis palmarum. It is in commemoration of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, recorded in Matthew xxi, Mark xi, and Luke xix. For a suburban custom on the eye of this day, see our last vol. p. 66.

12.—MAUNDY THURSDAY.

This day is called, in Latin, dies mandati, the day of the command; heing a commemoration of our Lord's washing the feet of his disciples. It is also called Shire or Chare Thursday, the origin of which is thus given in the 'Festivall':- 'Many wyll aske dyverse questyons of the servyce of these dayes of suche preestes as they suppose cannot make no relly answere, but putte hym to shame, and to do hym vylonye and repreef. Wherefore I have tyteled whiche be needefull for every preest to knowe; and yf he wyll loke on it, and kepe them redely in herte, he may make redy answere, and so it shall be to him both profyt and worship. Fyrst, yf a man aske why Shere Thursday is called so, ye may saye, that in holy Chirche it is called Cena Domini, our Lorde's souper day. It is also in Englyshe called Sher Thoursday, for in olde faders dayes the people wolde that daye shere theyr hedes, and clippe theyr berdes, and polle theyr hedes, and so make thym honest ageinst Ester day. For on Good Fryday they doo theyr bodyes none ease, but suffre penaunce in mynde

of hym, that that day seffred his passyon for all mankynde. On Ester even it is tyme to here theyr servyce, and after servyce make holydave. It is wryten in the lyfe of a Saynte, that he was so besy on the Saterday before none, that he made a man to shave hym at after none; then was the Fende redy, and gadred up the heres. Then this holv saw that. and commaunded hym for to tell why he dyde soo. Then sayd he, Thou doost no reverence unto thy holy daye: therefore I will kepe these heres till the day of dome, in grete repreef to thee. Then anone he left off shavynge, and toke these heres frome the Fende. and made theym to brenne in his owne honde to suffre penaunce, and so abode unshaven tvli the Monday after. This is sayde to al thoo in repreef of them that worshyp not the Saterday at after-none. Thenne as Johan Bellet sayth, on Sher Thursday a man sholde do poll his here, and clyppe his berde, and a preest sholde shave his crowne, sou that theresholde notherne be between God and hym: and thenne shryve theym, and make them clene within his soule; as without. And thus make theym clone both within and without."

13.—GOOD FRYDAY.

Holy Friday, or the Friday in Holy Week, was its more antient and general appellation; the name Good Friday is peculiar to the English church.

As we have before alluded to the penances performed on this day, and at other seasons, it may not be inappropriate to say a few words on the very singular commutation of them, which began in the eighth century, when, instead of the antient severities, vecal prayers came to be all that was enjoined; so many Paters (or repetitions of the Lord's prayer) being held to be equivalent to so many days fasting, &c. and the rich were allowed to buy off their penances by giving alms. The procuring of masses also to be said was thought to be a mode of devotion by which God was

so much honoured, that the commutation of penance for masses was much practised.

The immediate cause of this commutation of penances was the impossibility of performing them, according to the canons of the church; since, in many cases, it required more time than the term of human life. For instance, a ten years' penance being enjoined for a murder, a man who had committed twenty murders, must have done penance two hundred years; and therefore some other kind of penance was judged absolutely necessary; and the person who was chiefly instrumental in settling the commutations of penance was one Dominic, who communicated them to the celebrated Peter Damiani, whose anthority in the age in which he lived was very great.

By them it was determined that a hundred years of penance might be compensated by twenty repetitions of the psalter, accompanied with discipline. that is, the use of the whip on the naked skin. computation was made in the following manner: Three thousand strokes with the whip were judged to be equivalent to a year of penance, and a thousand blows were to be given in the course of repeating ten psalms. Consequently, all the psalms, which are one hundred and fifty, were equivalent to five years of penance, and therefore twenty psalters to one hundred years. It is amusing enough at this day, and in a Protestant country, to read that Dominic easily despatched this task in six days, and thus discharged some offenders for whom he had undertaken to do it. Once, at the beginning of Lent. he desired Damiani to impose upon him a thousand years of penance, and he very nearly finished it before the end of the same Lent. Damiani also imposed upon the Archbishop of Milan a penance of a hundred years, which he redeemed by a sum of money to be paid annually. Though Peter Damiani

was the great advocate for this system of penance,

he did not deny the novelty of it.

Fleury acknowledges that when the penances were made impossible, on account of the multitude of them, they were obliged to have recourse to compensations, and estimations, such as these repetitions of psalms, bowings, scourgings, alms, pilgrimages, &c.; things, as he observes, that might be performed without conversion. However, in a national council in England, held in 747, penances performed by others were forbidden. This enormity was too great to be admitted even in these ignorant and licentious ages; but it must have gained some considerable ground before it was checked by public authority.

Hospinian tells us, that the kings of England had a custom of hallowing rings with much ceremony on Good Friday, the wearers of which will not be afflicted with the falling sickness. He adds, that the custom took its rise from a ring which had been long preserved with great veneration in Westminster Abbey, and was supposed to have great efficacy against the cramp and falling sickness, when touched by those who were afflicted with either of those disorders.

Woe be to any son of Israel who dare show his face in the Lisbon streets on Good Friday; for on that day the churches are all thrown open, and the pulpits are continually occupied by fanatical and ignorant monks, who relieve one another throughout the day, pouring forth the most frantic rhapsodies; comparing all Jews and heretical Protestants to the impious murderers of our Saviour, and thus exciting the passions of the ferocious rabble against them, as the enemies of God.

In the course of their ravings, these impostors display all their stores of relics;—a little phial, which they affirm to contain some real identical drops of the blessed Virgin's milk, a lock of hair from our Saviour's head, the parings of Mary Magdalen's nails, a real fragment of St. John's goat skin jacket, and, lastly, a bloody rag pretended to have been dipped in the real blood of our Lord. This they exhibit, accompanied with the most phrenzied language, calling upon all good Christians to avenge the blood which was shed for their salvation. Worked up to such a pitch of fanatical enthusiasm, it is not astonishing that the congregation issue forth in a state of mind resembling that of King Clovis of France, who, after hearing a similar rant from the mouth of St. Remi, exclaimed, "Que n'étois-je là avec mes Francs

pour le défendre !"

'I was once walking on the Caes do Sodré' (says the author of "Sketches of Portuguese Life"), 'on the anniversary of our Lord's Passion, just as the congregation were issuing from the church of St. Paul. A Barbary Jew, in his oriental costume, and apparently unaware of his danger, was at the moment walking upon the quay. He was no sooner perceived by the rabble, than they addressed to him the epithets of Pilate, Judas, Jew, dog, &c.; next, from words, they proceeded to blows; and their fanatical brutality carried them so far, that some of them held him, whilst others cut off his beard and filled his mouth with handfuls of filth which they picked up in the street. Their fury augmented with their excesses. and the poor Israelite would have ended his days in the Tagus, but for a British officer in Portuguese uniform, who, with the flat of his sabre, dispersed the devout cut-throats in the twinkling of an eve.

Good Friday at Jerusalem.—On the evening of Good Friday (or dark night, as it is denominated), the Christians proceed in a body to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, situated upon Mount Calvary. A sermon is first delivered, during which the lights are extinguished, in order to create a more deep impression on the mind, and in reference to the supernatural

darkness that overspread the earth. A procession afterwards commences, when each person carries in his hand a lighted taper. A crucifix is borne before them, with an image of the Saviour, as large as life. attached to it, representing him in the act of hanging on the cross, with nails in the hands, a crown of thorns on the head, and the body is marked with blood. After proceeding to those parts of the church which have been consecrated to some particular acts performed in them relative to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and adorned with ornaments. the procession arrives at Mount Calvary, which is ascended by the monks without their shoes. The cross is erected, another discourse is delivered on the crucifixion, and followed by singing a hymn. After this, two persons, representing Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, approach the place with great solemnity, draw the nails, and take down the effigy, which is so contrived that the limbs are flexible, as if it were a real body. This is laid in a sheet. and taken to the spot where it is anointed with spices. Another hymn is chaunted; after which another sermon is delivered, and this ceremony terminates by depositing the body in the sepulchre.

In the village of Bethlehem the monks of Jerusalem assemble, and unite with those in the convent there. On this occasion a priest reads the 21st chapter of Matthew, and, on pronouncing the words— 'Go into the village against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her; loose them, and bring them unto me,' some of the fraternity are despatched, and return with a colt. Part of their clothes are then thrown off, and laid on the animal. One of them mounts upon it, and proceeds to Jerusalem. On entering the city their garments are spread, and branches of trees scattered in the way, chaunting at this time, 'Blessed is the Son of David, that cometh in the name of the Lord.'—Rae Wilson's

Travels.

An account of some antient English customs on Good Friday, as well as of a curious Roman Catholic ceremony in Colombia, may be seen in our last vol. pp. 69, 70.

It is observed by Bishop Kennett (in some Additions to a MS. Collection of Mr. Aubrey), that it is the custom for boys and girls in country schools, in several parts of Oxfordshire (as Bleckingdon, Weston, Charlton, &c.), at their breaking up in the week before Easter, to goe in a gang from house to house, with little clacks of wood; and when they come to any door they fall a heating their clacks, and sing the following song, expecting from every house some eggs or a piece of bacon, which they carry baskets to receive, and feast upon the contents at the week's end. At first coming to the door, they strike up very loud,

Harings, Harings, white and red, Ten a-penny, Lent's dead; Rise, dame, and give an egg, Or else a piece of bacon; One for Peter, two for Paul, Three for Jack-a-Lent's all: Away, Lent! away!

As soon as they receive any largess, they begin the chorus:

Here sits a good wife; Pray God save her life.

But if they lose their expectation, and must goe away empty, then with a full cry,

Here sits a bad wife;

And, in further indignation, they commonly cut the

How like a Jack-e-Loat
He stands, for boys to spend their Shrove-tide throws,
Or like a puppet made to frighten crows!

QUARLES.

² The Jack-o-Lent was a puppet, formerly thrown at in Lent, like Shrova-cocks:

latch of the door, or stop the key-hele with dirt, or leave behind them some more disgusting token of their displeasure.—Aubrey MS., A.D. 1686.

15.—EASTER DAY.

The word Easter is derived from the goddess Eastor, worshipped by our Saxon ancestors, with peculiar ceremonies, in April. The anniversary festival in memory of Christ's resurrection falling upon the same time of the year, gave occasion to the transfer of the heathen name in this country to the Christian celebration. An account of some very curious customs on this day will be found in our last vol. p. 73.

16, 17.—EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

19.—SAINT ALPHEGE.

Alphege was first Abbot of Bath, then Bishop of Winchester, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. He was stoned to death by the Danes, at Greenwich, about the year 1012.

*19. 1826.—REV. JOHN MILNER, D.D. F.S.A. DIED,

ÆT. 74,

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Castabala, and Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District of England. His 'History of Winchester,' will be retained in the libraries of the learned, as a most elaborate and critically just account of the ancient and modern history of that city; and his knowledge of Gothic architecture may be collected from the article on that subject, in Dr. Rees's Cyclopedia, said to be written by him. As a polemic and divine, his works are of the first rank. His letters to Dr. Sturges, the Prebendary of Winchester, have gone through many editions. His last great work, the 'End to Controversy,' is well known. As a prelate, Dr. Milner was indefatigable in the performance of his duties; no part of his extensive district, comprising not less than fifteen counties, being neglected

by him. He visited every part, at stated times; and where assistance was wanted, he always administered relief.—For an elaborate Memoir of Dr. Milner, we must refer to the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xcvi, part II, pp. 175 et seq.

22.—LOW SUNDAY.

It was a custom among the primitive Christians, on the first Sunday after Easter-day, to repeat some part of the solemnity of that grand festival; whence this Sunday took the name of Low-Sunday, being celebrated as a feast, though in a lower degree.

23.—SAINT GEORGE.

The patron saint of England.—See T. T. for 1821, p. 107. The King's birth-day is kept on this day, being his name-day, in imitation of the custom in catholic countries.—In the Merry Wives of Windsor (Act V, Sc. 5), Quickly says to the fairies, alluding to the Order of St. George and the Garter,

About, about, Search WINDSOR CASTLE, elves, within and out; Strew good luck, ouphes, on every sacred room, That it may stand till the perpetual doom, In state as wholsome! as in state 'tis fit. Worthy the owner, and the owner it. The several CHAIRS OF ORDER, look you, scour With juice of balm, and every precious flower; Each fair instalment coat, and several crest, With loyal blazon, evermore be blest! And nightly, meadow fairies, look you, sing, Like to the GARTER's compass, in a ring: The expressure that it bears, green let it be, More fertile-fresh than all the field to see, And 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' write In emerald tufts, flowers, purple, blue and white; Like sapphire, pearl, and rich embroidery, Buckled below fair knighthood's bending knee; Fairies use flowers for their charactery.

This signifies entire or perfect.

25.—SAINT MARK.

This Evangelist wrote his Gospel about the year 69. He died in the 8th year of Nero, and was buried at Alexandria. The gaiety and splendour formerly exhibited in St. Mark's Square, at Venice, on St. Mark's Day, have been the theme of every traveller. Every method was contrived for ages to do honour to this the Patron Saint of the city; and, amongst other singular customs, a man ascends and descends the tower dedicated to him on the frail support of a rope stretched from the summit, and secured at a considerable distance from the base. The following is an account of the ceremony as it took place in 1680:—

'The Doge, the Senate, and the Imperial Ambassador, with above 50,000 common spectators, beheld the solemnity of St. Mark. In the first place, appeared certain butchers, in their roast-meat clothes: one of which, with a Persian scymetar, cut off the heads of three oxen, one after another, at one blow, to the admiration of all beholders, who had never seen the like either in this city, or in any other part of the world: but that which caused a greater wonder in the spectators was this, that a certain person. adorned in a tinsel riding-habit, having a gilt helmet upon his head, and holding in his right hand a lance, in his left a helmet made of a thin piece of plate gilded, and sitting upon a white horse, with a swift pace ambled up a rope 600 feet long, fastened from the quay to the top of St. Mark's tower: being got half way, his coat, which was of tinsel, happening to fall off, he made a stand, and stooping his lance submissively, saluted the Doge sitting in the palace, and flourished the banner three times over his head.

'Then, resuming his former speed, he went on, and, with his horse, entered the tower where the bell hangs; and presently returning on foot, he climbed up to the highest pinnacle of the tower; where, sitting on the golden angel, he flourished his banner

again several times; and so returning down to the tower, and there taking horse, he rode down again to the very bottom. Next year he promises to ride up to the same tower with a cart and two oxen.'

'Whoever,' says Mrs. Piozzi, 'sees St. Mark's Place lighted up of an evening, adorned with every excellence of human art, and pregnant with pleasure, expressed by intelligent countenances sparkling with every grace of nature; the sea washing its walls, the moon-beams dancing on its subjugated waves, sport and laughter resounding from the coffee-houses, girls with guitars skipping about the square, masks and merry-makers singing as they pass you, unless a barge with a band of music is heard at some distance upon the water, and calls attention to sounds made sweeter by the element over which they are brought; whoever is led suddenly, I say, to this scene of seemingly perennial gaiety, will be apt to cry out of Venice, as Eve says to Adam in Milton,

With thee conversing, I forget all time, All seasons, and their change—all please alike!

Some particulars of the belief in fairies, in Wales, at the present day, may be seen in our last volume, p. 97.

*27. 1826.—REV. CHARLES SYMMONS, D.D., DIED,

Author of the 'Life of Milton,' prefixed to an edition of Milton's Prose Works, of which he was not the editor. Besides some Sermons, he also published, in 1813, an octavo volume of 'Poems.'

*APRIL, 1826.—THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE'S CENOTAPH COMPLETED.

This national tribute to the memory of a beloved princess, for which about fifteen thousand pounds were subscribed, at a guinea each person, was executed by Mr. Matthew Wyatt, and has recently been erected in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. It is placed in a beautiful little chapel, at the north-west angle of

This spot is called Urswick's Chapel, after the nave. Sir Christopher Urswick. Dean of Windsor in the time of Henry VII. The stone screen has been removed to the south side, and a railing substituted. The roof has been embellished with blazonry. and painted glass introduced into the windows, and executed with great brilliancy by Mr. Wyatt. The design of the cenotaph is to represent the moment at which the spirit of the departed princess has fled from the body. On a bier lies shrouded an indistinct figure, whose hand drops lifeless on the side. There is a painful reality about this object which exhibits a great triumph of art, but might, it may be thought, have been better left to the imagination. At each corner of the bier four female figures, representing the four quarters of the world, are in various attitudes of the deepest grief. The faces of each are concealed, but the various attitudes of the mourners are singularly expressive. Behind the bier appears a dark chasm: emerging as it were from this dreary depth, and floating above the bier, is a full-length figure of the departed Princess ascending to the skies. is, unquestionably, a most admirable and beautiful representation, seldom exceeded in modern or ancient art. The likeness is perfect, and the expression quite scraphic.

Astronomical Occurrences

In APRIL 1827.

Ye beauteous stars, ye living fires that light The boundless blue, what are ye? what but dust, The shining dust of Heaven's resplendent rood! O, I should joy

To fling mortality's dim vest aside, Cumberous, and clogged with sin; and, light as air, Mount on you moonlight cloud, and tread that path Of sparkling brilliance, which conducts to those Bright mausions in the skies, where seraphim Attune their harps before the immortal throne.

PENNIR.

SOLAR PHRNOMENA.

THE Sun enters Taurus at 30 m. after 9 in the evening of this month, and he will be eclipsed early in the morning of the 26th; but the eclipse will be invisible in this country, as the conjunction takes place at $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. past 3, in longitude 1.5° $3\frac{1}{2}$, the Moon's latitude $51\frac{1}{2}$, north. The Sun will be centrally eclipsed on the meridian at 40 m. after 3, in latitude 87° 30'\frac{1}{2}, north, and longitude 124° $59'\frac{1}{2}$ east. He also rises and sets during the same period as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising	and	Setting for	every	fifth	Day.
---------------------	-----	-------------	-------	-------	------

April	lst,	Sunris	es 35	m.	after	5.	Sets	25	m	after	6
-	6th.		. 25			5.		35			ß

Equation of Time.

To regulate a clock by means of a sun-dial, observe the time indicated by the dial, and then employ the correction as indicated in the following table. The numbers for any other times may be found by proportion, as already directed.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Sunday, April 1st, to the time by the dial add Friday, 6th,	m. 4 2	9 39
Wednesday, 11th,	1	13
Monday, 16th, from the time by the dial subtract	0	6
Saturday, 21st,		15
Thursday, 26th,	2	13

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

First Quarter,	4th	day, at 25 m. after	2 in the afternoon
		23	
Last Quarter	18th,	19	3 in the afternoon
		2	

The Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following times will afford opportunities for

observing these transits, should the weather prove favourable at the respective periods, viz.

	_	-	
April 2d,	at	39 m. after	in the afternoon
3d,		27	5
4th,		15 (B
5th,		2	7 in the evening
6th,		50	7
			8
			9
			0
			1
			in the morning
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			δ
			7
			3

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The following are the times of high tide at London Bridge for certain days of this month. Those for the intermediate days may be found by proportion, and for other places, as already directed.

Table of Tides.

		Morning. 51 m. after 4			Afternoon.			
April 1st,	at	51	m. after	4	*******	10 m. after 5		
6th,		6		9		87 9		
llth.		31		1		58 1		
						40 5		
						5410		
						41 2		

The tide will be higher than usual about the 14th of this month; and should it be increased by the wind, accidents on some part of the coast may be apprehended.

Phases of Venus.

This beautiful planet still shines with considerable brilliancy, for though her distance from the earth increases fast, the breadth of her illuminated disk also increases rapidly. The proportion now is,

April 1st { Illuminated part = 7.48718 | Dark part = 4.51282

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

The following are the eclipses of the first and se-

cond of these small bodies that will be visible during this month. They are recorded in mean time, corresponding to the Royal Observatory, viz.

Emersions.

First Satellite 8d day,	at 5 m.	38 s. after	3 ln the morning
4th	. 84	5	9 in the evening
			li
			l in the marning
20th	. 50	48	7 in the evening
			8 in the morning
27th	. 44	53	9
Second Satellite 8th			
			8 in the evening

Form of Saturn's Ring.

Most of our readers are aware that the ring which encompasses this planet sometimes appears merely like a right line across its disk, at others like an oval belt about the planet, while it often presents an opening towards each extremity, and shews the ring more distinctly. The proportions of the axes now are,

April 1st { Transverse axis = 1.000 Conjugate axis = 0.516

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

April 11th, with a in Virgo, at mideight 18th, with β in Capricorn at 10 in the evening.

Other Phenomena.

Mercury will be in his inferior conjunction at 45 m. past 6 in the evening of the 5th of this month, and stationary on the 19th. Georgium Sidus will also be in quadrature at a quarter past 11 in the evening of the 18th.

The SERAR.

'It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.'...James iv, 14.

Deep in the perilous desart, wandering slow Through Nubia's scorched wastes, the caravan Toils worn and hopeless; round the wretched man The Serab spreads her wild delusive show, And bids her azure waters seem to flow
Smooth through the dreary sand-plains; burnt and wan
The shaggy hills, bare with perpetual ban,
Vivid their forms reflect down deep below
The surface of the calm deceit, whose gleam
Mocks the steel-polished lakes of other lands,
Fair semblance of a fever-slaking stream!
Luscious to him the Arab while he stands
Disconsolate;—thus on the howling sands
Of human life, each joy is but a pageant dream.
LAWSON.

'During the whole day's march, we were surrounded on all sides by the lakes of Mirage, called by the Arabs, Serab. Its colour was of the purest azure, and so clear, that the shadows of the mountains which bordered the horizon, were reflected on it with the greatest precision, and the delusion of its being a sheet of water was rendered still more perfect. had often seen the mirage in Syria and Egypt, but always found it of a whitish colour, rather resembling a morning mist, seldom lying steady on the plain, but in continual vibration; but here it was very different. and had the most perfect resemblance to water. The great drvness of the earth and air, in this desart, may be the cause of the difference. (The appearance of the water approached also much nearer than in Syria and Egypt, being often not more than two hundred paces from us; whereas I had never seen it before at a distance of less than half a mile.) There were at one time about a dozen of these false lakes round us, each separated from the other, and for the most part in the low grounds'.—Burckhardt's Travels in Nubia, pp. 192, 193.

^{&#}x27;The vapour here alluded to, called by the Arabians, Serab, is not unlike in appearance (and probably proceeding from a similar cause) to those white mists which we often see hovering over the surface of a river in a summer's evening, after a hot day. They are very frequent in the sultry plains of Arabia, and when seen at a distance, resemble an expanded lake; but upon a nearer approach, the thirsty traveller perceives his deception. Hence the Serab, in Arabian poetry, is a common emblem of disappointed expectation.

To this account we shall add the following, on the curious effects of electricity upon Mount Ætna. June 2. 1814,-Before mid-day two travellers were returning from the mountain, guided by Vicenza Carbonaro, one of the guides from Nicolesi. They had arrived in the Piano del Luga, where, expecting a hail-storm, they quickened their pace, walking upon the frozen snow. Carbonaro was the most advanced of the party; he felt his hair stand on end, his forehead and the skin of his face felt benumbed, and he heard a hissing noise. He took off his cap, and his hair became more bristled, and the whistling noise more powerful. The traveller nearest to Carbonaro also heard a humming sound, and asked the guide what it was; he could not give him any reason for it, and he stopped, supposing he was dizzy. time, they approached each other, and were pleased with the magic sound. The traveller turned to call his companion, who was at a little distance, and made a sign to him with his hand: the hand when raised produced a much stronger sound; so much so, that moving the fingers singularly modulated it. veller approached, and heard the sound produced by the head and body of his companion, but, not having entered into the current of electric air, his repeated attempts produced no sound. Finally, the three persons having joined, they experienced great pleasure, as, with moving their fingers, they produced the above extraordinary effect. In the mean time, the hailstorm fell on them, and, being rather curious than erudite, they resolved to prosecute their journey downwards, without caring to make further investi-

This word occurs in Isaiah xxxv, 7, which is rendered by our translators, 'and the parehed ground shall become a pool.' But in a prophecy consisting of promises for the confirming of happiness and the fulfilling of hope, perhaps we may translate the word any with as much propriety according to its Arabic acceptation, 'And the suitry vapour shall become a real lake.'—See Forster's Translation of the Arabian Nights, Pref. p. xv.

gations. Scarcely had they gone a few paces, advancing beyond the electric air, than the sounds ceased, and Carbonaro was relieved from his apprehensions.'

The Naturalist's Diary

For APRIL 1827.

Gentle controller of the wintry reign!
While skylarks sing, and buds and flowers expand,
Oh! chase away with thy enchanting wand
Despondency, that monster dark and vain:
For where he dwells, nor health nor hope remain
To solace with their power the rending heart.
At the torn breast the Wizard aims his dart,
And hears unmoved the fainting wretch complain.
Maiden, with violet breath! to me impart,
At least, the promise of a milder day:
The daisies bloom; the linnets carol gay;
Yet I, alas! with bitter anguish smart:—
Come, then, and bring Hope's cheering aid to save;
Or quickly strew thy wild-flowers on my grave.

R. MILLHOUSE.

THE month of April is proverbial for its fickleness; for its intermingling showers and flitting gleams of sunshine; for all species of weather in one day: for a wild mixture of clear and cloudy skies, greenness and nakedness, flying hail and abounding blossoms. But, to the lover of Nature, it is not the less characterized by the spirit of expectation with which it imbues the mind. We are irresistibly led to look forward; to anticipate, with a delightful enthusiasm. the progress of the season. It is one of the excellent laws of Providence, that our minds shall be insensibly moulded to a sympathy with that season which is passing, and become deprived, in a certain degree, of the power of recalling the images of those which are gone by; whence we reap the double advantage of not being disgusted with the deadness of the wintry landscape from a comparison with the hilarity of spring; and when spring itself appears, it

comes with a freshness of beauty which charms us, at once, with novelty, and a recognition of old de-Symptoms of spring now crowd thickly upon us. However regular may be our walks, we are daily surprised at the rapid march of vegetation; at the sudden increase of freshness, greenness, and beauty: one old friend after another starts up before us in the shape of a flower. The violets, which came out in March in little delicate groups, now spread in myriads along hedge-rows, and fill secluded lanes with fragrance. Last spring, however, though most abundant, yet, perhaps owing to the remarkable dryness of the season, they were almost scentless. The pilewort, or lesser celandine, too, is now truly beautiful, opening thousands and tens of thousands of its splendidly gilt and starry flowers along banks, and at the feet of sheltered thickets; so that whoever sees them in their perfection, will cease to wonder at the admiration which Wordsworth has poured out upon them in two or three separate pieces of poetry. Anemonies blush and tremble in copses and pastures; the wild cherry enlivens the woods; and in some parts of the kingdom, the vernal crocus presents a most beautiful appearance, covering many acres of meadow, as in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, with its bloom, rivalling whatever has been sung of the fields of Enna; showing at a distance like a perfect flood of lilac, and tempting every merry little heart, and many graver ones also, to go out and gather.

The blossom of fruit-trees presents a splendid scene: in the early part of the month, gardens and orchards being covered with a snowy profusion of plum-bloom; and the blackthorn and wild plum wreathe their sprays with such pure and clustering flowers, that they gleam in hedges and the shadowy depth of woods, as if their boughs radiated with sunshine. In the latter part of the month, the sweet and blushing blossoms of apples, and of the wilding, fill up the succession, harmonizing delightfully with the

tender green of the expanding leaves, and continuing through part of May, recalling early recollections, as in

The SEAMAN'S RETURN.

My life in wandering chance and change
For thirty years had run;
I had been to the cold and icy north,
And in bright realms of the sun.
I had sailed upon the mighty breast
Of rivers vast as seas,
And heard ten thousand singing birds
In wilds of myrtle trees;
Where not a cloud, by right or der

Where not a cloud, by night or day,
The sky's blue radiance mars;
And spleudid flowers, with rainbow hues,
Gem the rich earth like stars.
I had been on shores where heroes fell
In freedom's holy fight;
Where the glorious tales of old renown
Fell o'er the land like light:

Till tired, at length, of realms so fair,
In the pleasant month of May,
We felt the breeze from England blow,
And moored in an English bay.
I went to my native vale again,
And there, by my mother's door,
The arum and the wilding grew,
As they had grown before.

I paused, and at sight of those blessed flowers

No more could my tears restrain,

For it seemed the purity and love

Of my childhood came again:

It seemed as sin and sorrow fled

From view of the flower and tree;

And I thought what my blameless youth had been,

So there mine age might be.

MARY HOWITT.

But perhaps the most delightful of all the features of this month, are the return of migratory birds, and the commencement of building their nests. Not only the swallow tribe, the cuckoo, and the nightingale, whose arrival is noticed by almost everybody, but scores of other old acquaintances suddenly salute you in your walks with their well-remembered aspects and notes. White-throats, whinchats, reed-

sparrows, &c., perched in their old haunts, and following their diversified habits, seem as little fatigued or strange, as if they had only worn invisible coats all the winter, and had never left the spot. There is something truly delightful to the naturalist in the beauty of birds'-nests, and the endless variety of colours, spots, and hieroglyphic scrolls on their eggs,the picturesque places in which they are fixed, from the lapwing's on the naked fallow-field, to that of the eagle in its lofty and inaccessible eyrie; in the different degrees of art displayed—from the rude raft of a few sticks made by the wood-pigeon, to the exquisite little dome of the golden-crested wren, or of the long-tailed titmouse (Parus caudatus), a perfect cone stuck between two branches of a tree, having a small hole in one side for entrance,—the interior lined with the most downy feathers, enriched with sixteen or seventeen eggs, like small oval pearls, and the exterior most tastefully decorated with a profusion of spangles of silvery lichen upon dark green moss. Boys are perfectly absorbed by their admiration of these attractive little objects: in vain do parents scold about torn clothes, scratched hands, shoes spoiled with dew: every field and wood is traversed, every bush explored; no tree is too high, no rock too dangerous to climb; sticks, split at the end, are thrust into every hollow hole, to twist out the hidden nest; and we ourselves recollect being held by the heels over an old coal-pit sixty yards deep, to reach one built in a hollow two or three feet below the surface of the ground.

BIRDS' NESTS.

Spring is abroad! the cuckoo's note Floats o'er the flowery lea; Yet nothing of the mighty sea Her welcome tones import: Nothing of lands where she has been, Of fortunes she has known; The joy of this remembered scene Seems in her song alone.

No traveller she, whose vaunting boast Tells of each fair but far-off coast: She talks not here of eastern skies, But of home and its pleasant memories.

Spring is abroad! a thousand more

Sweet voices are around,
Which yesterday a farewel sound
Gave to some foreign shore;
I know not where,—it matters not;

To-day their thoughts are bent To pitch, in some sequestered spot, Their secret summer teat; Hid from the glance of urchins' eves

Hid from the glance of urchins' eyes, Peering already for the prize; While daily, hourly intervene The clustering leaves, a closer skreen.

In bank, in bush, in hollow bole,
High on the rocking tree,
On the grey cliffs that haughtly
The ocean waves control;
Far in the solitary fen,

On heath, and mountain hoar, Beyond the foot of fear of men,

Or by the cottage door; In grassy tuft, in ivied tower, Where'er directs th' instinctive power, Or loves each jocund pair to dwell, Is built the cone, or feathery cell.

Beautiful things! than I, no boy
Your treasures may discern
Sparkling beneath the forest forn
With fiveher sense of joy:
I would not bear them from the nest,

To leave fund hearts regretting; But, like the soul skreened in the breast,

Like gems in beauteous setting, Amidst Spring's leafy, green array I deem them; and, from day to day, Passing, I panse, to turn aside, With joy the boughs where they shid

With joy, the boughs where they abide.

The mysteries of life's early day
Lay thick as summer dew;
Like it, they glittered and they flew,
With ardent youth away:
But not a charm of yours has faded;
Ye are full of marvel still.

Now jewels cold—and now pervaded
With heavenly fire, ye thrill
And kindle into life, and bear
Beauty and music through the air:
The embryos of a shell to-day;
To morrow, and—away! away!

Methinks, even as I gaze, there springs
Life from each tinted cone;
And wondering thought has onward flown
Where speed careering wings.
To lands, to summer lands afar,
To the mangrove and the palm;
To the region of each stranger star
Led by a blissful charm:

Like toys in beauty here they lay—
They are gone o'er the sounding ocean's spray;
They are gone to bowers and skies more fair,
And have left us to our march of care. w. Howitt.

To this pleasing description of the appearances of Nature in April, we add two poetical tributes to our interesting visitor, the *cuckoo*, which cannot fail of being acceptable to our readers.

The Cuckoo: a Scottish Song.
The pleasant summer time is come,
I hear the sweet cuckoo,
The corn is growing green and long,
The lamb bleats by the ewe;
The grasshopper sings for the sun,
The cricket sings for heat,
But when ye hear the cuckoo's song,
Be sure the season's sweet.
The throstle sings not till the light,

The lark not till the dawn,
The linnet when the pear-trees bud,
And woman sings for man:
They sing but to be heard or seen
In hower or budding bough,
Sae sings now my meek modest bird,
The grey unseen cuckoo.

London Magazine.

INVOCATION to the CUCKOO.

O Pursuivant and Herald of the Spring!
Whether thou still dost dwell
In some rose-laurelled dell
Of that charmed island, whose magician king

Bade all its rocks and caves, Woods, winds, and waves, Thrill to the dulcet chant of Ariel,

Until he broke the spell .

And cast his wand into the shuddering sea,— O hither, hither fleet

Upon the South wind sweet,

And soothe us with the vernal mel-

And soothe us with thy vernal melody!

Or whether to the redolent Azores, Amid whose tufted sheaves

The Floral goddess weaves
Her garland, breathing on the glades and shores
Intoxicating Air,

Truant! thou dost repair:

Or lingerest still in that meridian nest, Where myriad piping throats

Rival the warbler's notes,

The saffron namesake of those islands blest,
O hither, hither wing

Thy flight, and to our longing woodlands sing.

Or, in those sea-girt gardens dost thou dwell, Of plantain, cocoa, palm, And that red tree, whose balm

Fumed in the holocausts of Israel; Beneath Banana shades.

Guaya, and fig-tree glades,

Painting thy plumage in the sapphirine hue Thrown from the heron blue,

Or rays of the prismatic parroquet,-

O let the perfumed breeze From those Hesperides

Waft thee once more our eager ears to greet!

For lo! the young leaves flutter in the south, As if they tried their wings,

While the bee's trumpet brings

News of each bud that pouts its honied mouth, Blue-bells, yellow-cups, jonquils, Lilies wild, and daffodils,

Gladden our meads in intertangled wreath:

The sun enamoured lies
Watching the violets' eyes

On every bank, and drinks their luscious breath;

With open lips the thorn Proclaims that May is born,

And dar'st thou, bird of Spring, that summons scorn?

Cuckoo! Cuckoo! O welcome, welcome notes! Fields, woods, and waves rejoice In that recovered voice. As on the wind its fluty music floats.

New Monthly Magazine.

The swallow, the harbinger of summer, arrives about the middle of the month. The arrival of the chimney swallow in the neighbourhood of Bottisham, observes the Rev. Mr. Jenyns, usually takes place about the fifteenth of April, but has been occasionally deferred till the twenty-second, which is the latest ever noticed. The first broods are fledged early in August, and towards the middle of that month they begin to collect into large flocks, which increase in numbers as the season advances and the time of departure draws near. This, with respect to the majority, takes place in the beginning of October, but stragglers may be seen a week or two longer. Mr. J. once observed a white variety of this bird at Ely.

The house martin appears about a week after the swallow, but is seldom in great plenty before the beginning of May. It, however, remains later than that species, and is occasionally seen through the first week in November, though the greater part withdraw before that time. Previously to migration they congregate upon the roofs of houses and churches.

The sand martin.—The only places where I have hitherto observed these birds in Cambridgeshire, says Mr. Jenyns, are the chalky banks by the side of the road near Quy Water, and some gravel pits in the neighbourhood of Bourn Bridge. In the former of these situations I have noticed them regularly every year, and have found the time of their arrival to be about the middle of April; but I am unable to say when they leave us, though I am inclined to suspect that this takes place at a much earlier period than with either of the preceding species.

To the MARTIN.

By Richard Howitt.

Home art thou come to thy nest in my eaves, With the flowery gems and the light green leaves, O'er the blooming earth and the wide blue sea, From a distant land unknown to me; And the wise have sought, but in vain, to tell, When winter is ours, where thou goest to dwell.

Where the lonely ship sped on with the blast, Thou didst sink from thy weary flight on the mast; When the storm had been, and the crew were lost, On the shattered bark thou wert wikily tossed; And didst float on the wreck, when the storm had died, For days on the warm and waveless tide.

Where the lion crouched with his half-shut eye, In the jungle's shade from the burning sky, Thou didst sit on the reeds o'er his fearful lair, And plumed thy wings in the sultry air, Till the negro's shout and his flying spear Aroused thee to instant flight and fear.

Still further on—still further on,
Far as the mariner's bark hath gone,
O'er eastern seas he has noted thy flight,
And followed thy wing with his wearied sight—
In vain—for no living wight may show,
When winter is ours, where thou lovest to go!

Then, come! and with thy return to my eaves, Dear is the thought which my soul receives: If the mind of man, and his reason's light, Be powerless to measure thy venturous-flight, How vain is the wisdom which fain would find The state of unbodied, immortal mind; Since little hath God unto man revealed, And his future fate is a mystery sealed!

An interesting account of the cliff swallow of the United States of America is given in Lucien Buonaparte's 'American Ornithology.'

A very singular trait (he observes) distinguishes the migrations of this bird. While the European or white variety of the human race is rapidly spreading over this continent, from its eastern borders to the most remote plains beyond the Mississippi, the cliff swallow advances from the extreme western regions, annually invading a new territory farther to the eastward, and induces

us to conclude that a few more summers will find it sporting in this immediate vicinity, and familiarly established along the Atlantic shores. Like all other North American swallows, this species passes the winter in tropical America, whence in the spring it migrates northward, for the purpose of breeding. It appears to be merely a spring passenger in the West Indies, remaining there but a few days, according to Vieillot, who, not seeing any in the United States, and observing some while at sea, in August, in the latitude of Nova Scotia, supposed that they propagated in a still more northern region. As we have not received any account of their inhabiting the well-explored countries around Hudson's Bay, we are led to the conclusion, that the western wilds of the United States have hitherto been their summer resort, and that not until recently have they ventured within the domains of civilised man.

This active little bird is, like its congeners, almost continually on the wing, and feeds on flies and other insects, while performing its aërial evolutions. Their note is different from that of other swallows, and may be well imitated by rubbing a moistened cork around in the neck of a bottle. The species arrive in the west from the south early in April, and immediately begin to construct their symmetrical nests, which are perfected by their united and industrious efforts. At the dawn of day they commence their labours, by collecting the necessary mud from the borders of the rivers or ponds adjacent, and they persevere in their work until near mid-day, when they relinquish it for some hours, and amuse themselves by sporting in the air, pursuing insects, &c. As soon as the nest acquires the requisite firmness, it is completed, and the female begins to deposit her eggs, which are four in number, white, spotted with dusky brown. The nests are extremely friable, and will readily crumble to pieces.

In unsettled countries these birds select a sheltered situation. under a projecting ledge of rock; and, in civilised districts, they have already evinced a predilection for the abodes of man, by building against the walls of houses, immediately under the eaves of the roof, though they have not in the least changed their style of architecture. A nest from the latter situation is now before me; it is hemispherical, five inches wide at its truncated place of attachment to the wall, from which it projects six inches, and consists exclusively of a mixture of sand and clay, lined on the inside with straw and dried grass, negligently disposed for the reception of the eggs. The whole external surface is roughened by the projection of the various little pellets of earth which compose its substance. The entrance is near the top, rounded, projecting, and turning downwards, so that the nest may be compared to a chemist's retort, flattened on the side applied to the wall, and with the principal part of the neck broken off. So great is the

industry of these interesting little architects, that this massive and commodious structure is sometimes completed in the course of three days.

'Towards the end of April, observes Mr. Jenuns, in his "Ornithology of Cambridgeshire," the whitethroat resorts to our hedges in great quantities, where it must often have attracted notice by its very peculiar For the most part it sings concealed, but every now and then it may be observed to rise suddenly from its retreat to a considerable height in the air. and. without desisting from its song, to shoot about with some rapidity, accompanying its flight all the while with singular jerks and gesticulations of the wing. After continuing these movements for a greater or less interval, it returns slowly to the bush from whence it sprung, and resumes its former station. I cannot forbear mentioning in this place, that I have, at different times, been much inclined to suspect, that under the name of whitethroat, there have been two species hitherto confounded together. What has chiefly led me to this opinion, is the circumstance of my having occasionally noticed amongst these birds certain individuals, which not only differed strikingly from the above in habits and manners, but also in note, and which invariably preceded the others in their arrival by a week or a fortnight. This year, in particular, I observed some of these last as early as the first week in April. Their haunts were much the same as those of the common sort, being generally in thick hedges and close copses of underwood: in these situations, however, they were oftener heard than seen, as they always skulked about in the most concealed spots, and never rose into the air with that peculiarity of gesture which I have attempted to describe above. Their song, too, was very different, being much superior to that of the common sort, more melodious and varied in its notes, though so soft and inward as to be scarcely noticed unless near: moreover, this was never exerted on wing.

That these birds are really distinct from the others, I will not at present presume to decide, as I have not hitherto had an opportunity of comparing specimens of each sort together, which would afford the only means of detecting a specific difference if such exist between them. I find myself, however, somewhat corroborated in my suspicions, by the following observation of Montagu. In his Ornithological Dictionary (art. Whitethroat), he mentions having more than once killed a bird whose plumage differed in some respects from that of the common whitethroat; and in one instance from off the nest, which contained four eggs, almost entirely white, not nearly so much speckled with brown and ash-colour as those of this bird generally are: and whose weight was also greater. He confesses himself to have been much puzzled on this occasion, and concludes by hinting at the possibility of its being proved hereafter that there are two distinct species.

'The lesser whitethroat is far from uncommon in Cambridgeshire, making its first appearance in the last week of April. Like the rest of its tribe it is extremely shy, and very difficult to get sight of, though when near easily recognised by its note, which consists of a shrill shivering cry, repeated at intervals from the thickest parts of the wood. It resides, for the most part, in copses and gardens, building its nest in some low shrub at the height of about four feet from the ground. This is of a very loose and flimsy structure, and composed of dry bents, with the addition of a small quantity of wool placed in patches on its exterior surface; within, it is lined with a scanty supply of white hairs. The eggs are five in number, white, spotted chiefly towards the greater end with small dots of brown, and larger irregular stains of the same colour. Incubation commences about the 20th of May, and the young broods are fledged in June; but the note of the parent birds is continued till the middle or even till the end of July. Montagu has

stated very accurately the several points of difference between this species and the preceding, which, if attended to, will always serve to distinguish them from each other. Latham's figure, in his first supplement, is incorrect in representing the upper parts of the plumage of a deep brown, whereas they are wholly cinereous.

'The sedge-warbler, and all the other species of this genus (continues Mr. Jenyns), with the exception of the redbreast, are birds of passage, appearing with us in the spring and departing either before or at the approach of autumn. The sedge-warbler is first seen the last week in April. It is very plentiful throughout the fens and low grounds of Cambridge-shire, especially where there are osiers and other covert, in which situations it remains closely concealed, rarely exposing itself to view. The nest is suspended at a small height from the ground between the stems of the Arundo phragmites. During the breeding season it sings incessantly night and day in a somewhat hurried and confused manner, often imitating the notes of other birds.'

The Nightingale is seldom heard, in Cambridgeshire, before the 16th of April. After the young broods are hatched, which usually takes place by the end of the first week in June, its song wholly

ceases.

The other summer birds of passage which arrive this month, make their appearance in the following order: the ring-ousel; the redstart, frequenting old walls and ruinous edifices; the yellow wren, the swift, the grasshopper lark, the smallest of the lark kind; and the willow wren. The last bird is a general inhabitant of hedges, underwood, and a variety of other situations. It appears about the same time as the redstart, and, as is the case with many of this tribe, the males invariably precede the females by an interval of several days. Its song consists of seven or eight notes, which are

modulated in a seft and particularly pleasing, though somewhat plaintive manner. This is continued without intermission during the breeding season, but generally ceases by the beginning of July.

The BIRDS of PASSAGE.

Birds, joyous birds of the wandering wing!
Whence is it ye come with the flowers of Spring?
— We come from the shores of the green old Nile,
From the land where the roses of Sharon smile,
From the palms that wave through the Indian sky,
From the myrrh-trees of glowing Araby.

"We have swept o'er cities in song renowned— Silent they lie, with the deserts round! We have crossed proud rivers, whose tide hath rolled All dark with the warrior blood of old; And each worn wing hath regained its home, Under peasant's roof tree, or monarch's dome.'

And what have ye found in the monarch's dome,
Since last ye traversed the blue sea's foam?

—' We have found a change, we have found a pall,
And a gloom o'ershadowing the banquet's hall,
And a mark on the floor, as of life-drops spilt—

—Nought looks the same, save the nest we built!'

Oh! Joyous birds, it hath still been so:
Through the halls of kings doth the tempest go!
But the huts of the hamlet lie still and deep,
And the hills o'er their quiet a vigil keep.
Say, what have ye found in the peasant's cot,
Since last ye parted from that sweet spot.

— A change we have found there, and many a change? Faces and footsteps, and all things strange? Gone are the heads of the silvery hair, And the young that were, have a brow of care; And the place is husbed where the children played, —Nought looks the same, save the nest we made?

During this and the following month, a genus of large insects appears, some of them beautifalls marked with orange, and by no means uncommons the rarest of these (Necrophorus germanicus) but less handsome than most of the others, is figured in Mr. CURTIS'S BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY, plate 71, and the author gives the following curious and interesting account: -The Silphiudæ principally live upon deadanimals, which render them of great utility in removing what might otherwise become offensive and noxions to mankind; and none are more powerful or active agents in this important service than the Necrophorus. both in the larva and perfect states t the accounts of French writers respecting the Silpha Vespillo (the grave-digger) are extremely curious and interestings four or five of them, on finding a mole, frog, mouse, or other small animal, if it be not in a convenient place, remove it to one that is more so, when they insinuate themselves under it, and, clearing away the earth beneath, it is soon concealed from the eye, and in the course of 48 hours is absolutely buried to the depth of a foot; this operation is performed, that the eggs, which are afterwards deposited there by the females, may have food when they hatch to sustain them until they become pupse, before which period it is completely devoured by them, neither the bones nor the skin sometimes being left.

Some species of Necrophori are also found in fungi; they are all to be met with during the spring and summer: they have exceedingly long wings, and carry their elytra in flight erect; they are very subject to be infested with acari, with which sometimes

they are completely covered.

At plate 79 of the same work, Gyrinus bicolor is figured; the gyrini (says Mr C.) live in society, and many of them are extremely common in our ditches and rivers the whole of the spring and summer, where they must have attracted the notice of every lover of nature, by the rapid and curious evolutions which

they perform, during fine weather, upon the face of the water (from whence their English name of Whirlwigs), diving below the surface when alarmed, and carrying down with them a bubble of air appearing like quicksilver, as has been remarked by Fabricius: in duil and cold weather they secrete themselves under the banks, or at the bottom of the water. Most of them have a fetid smell.

In plate 102, is represented Rhyphus fenestralis, one of our commonest insects, being always to be found at this period in the windows of our houses. Plate 98 exhibits the Narcissus pseudo-narcissus (common daffodil), found in various parts of the kingdom during this month; and Merodon clavipes, a fly whose larva feeds upon the roots of those plants; it would therefore be worth while to examine meadows where the narcissi grow spontaneously, when they are in flower; for if one of the flies was found in the neighbourhood, there would be good reason to suppose they were bred there; and in November, the bulbs ought to be examined for the larvæ, which in all probability are easily reared, and additional information respecting the economy of a genus whose habits are so peculiar would be highly interesting to the entomologist, and probably beneficial to the florist.

In the early part and middle of this month, specimens of the rare Loleophora polycommata (pl. 8) have been taken near Dartford; a genus peculiar, from the inferior wings of the males having lobes, which give them the appearance of six wings.

The shell-snail comes out in troops in this month. M. de Martens states, that the annual export of snails (Helix pomatia) from Ulm, by the Danube, for the purpose of being used as food in the season of Lent by the convents of Austria, amounted formerly to ten millions of these animals. They were fattened in the gardens in the neighbourhood. This species of snail is not the only one which has been used as food; for

before the revolution in France, they experted large quantities of the Helix aspersa from the coasts of Aunis and Saintonge, in barrels, for the Antilles. This species of commerce is now much diminished, though they are still sometimes sent to the Antilles and Senezal. The consumption of snails is still very considerable in the departments of Charente Inferieure and Gironde. The consumption in the Isle de Rhé alone is estimated in value at 25,000 francs; and at Marseilles the commerce in these animals is considerable. The species eaten are Helix rhodostoma, H. aspersa, and H. vermiculata. In Spain, in Italy, in Turkey, and the Levant, the use of snails as food is common. It is only in Britain that the Roman conquerors have failed to leave a taste for a luxury which was so much used by the higher classes in antient Rome; though it would be very desirable, for the sake of the produce of our gardens, that some of the leaders of fashion in eating, would, by introdu-- cing them at table, take the most effectual method of keeping our native species within due bounds.

Scotian Botany for April.

The mildness of last month has done much towards the furtherance of vegetation. All nature now seems to rejoice at the voice of Spring, and the botanist is encouraged to resume his accustomed walks to

> Where the winding vale its lavish stores Irriguous spreads. To see the primrose drink The latent rill, or deck the humid bank In fair profusion.

During this month the progress of vegetation! is always rapid; the trees begin to shoot forth their leaves, and not a few are to be found, especially towards the end of the month, in flower.

1 To VEGETATION.

Painter of Landscapes! Vegetation, hail!
Dearly I love thee in thy every hue;
Whether thy pencil, in the mead and dale,
Tinges the flowers with yellew, white, or blue,

Amongst the first of these is the blackthorn or sloe-tree (Prunse spinosus): this plant, whose milk-white blossoms enliven our hedges, belongs to the class Icosandria monogynia: its fruit. which is well-known, is sometimes fermented, and forms an agreeable wine; the astringency of the bark has been taken advantage of in the manufacture of hik, and for dying wool of a red colour. Its leaves have been employed to adulterate tea. and their astringency has been transferred to port wine. The Prunus domestica (wild plum) now also ornaments our hedges with its blossoms. In the woods the Populus alba (the great white poplar), P. migra (the black poplar), and the aspen (P. tremula), may be all seen in flower: they are all discocous, the males furnished with eight stamina, and the females with four stigmata: they are of a very speedy growth, and consequently their wood being light and soft is not of much value in the arts. The aspen is remarkable for the compressed appearance of its petioles or leaf stalks, which causes their tremulous movement with the slightest breath of wind: the superstitious inform us that this is owing to our SAVIOUR'S CROSS having been made of it. The common elm (Ulmus campestris), the smooth-leaved elm (U. glabra), and the broad leaved (U. montana), belonging to the class Pentandria monogypia of Linnseus, and the Ulmacea of Mirbel, are now also in flower. They carry their flowers in dense heads which decay her fore the appearance of their leaves. The inner bank of these trees is said to have been formerly made into ropes by the highlanders, and their outer bark has been given as a medicine in scorbutic disorders. The common yew (Taxus baccata) flowers also in this month; it belongs to the class Direcea monadelphia; and is placed by Jussieu in the natural order Conifera; it is by no means a very tall-growing tree, but it frequently acquires a considerable diameter. Its leaves are permanent, and of a dark green colour; its flewers are small and clustered, and its fruit is red and considered poisonous. Its wood is hard, and much used for some purposes, as the making of bows; and, on account of its melancholy and gloomy appearance, it formerly was often

To deck thy emerald mantle; or in groves
Of thickest foliage weaves the darkest green;
Or in Carnation, Rose, and Tulip, loves
To make them each appear the garden's queen:
I court thee, too, where Furze and Heath-flowers grow
In the rude forest, and the desart wild,
And, oftentimes, to trace thy footsteps go
To rocks and caves, where sunbeam seldom smiled;
For there the Moss and Liverwort can tell
The searching magic of thy potent spell.

planted near the repositories of the dead. The hand (Corylor aveilant) is frequent in our woods; it is monsecous, or sustains on the same tree both male and female flowers, but distinct from one another. The sterile flower has many stamina, and the fertile ones two stigmata. Its nuts are by some relished as food, and its word is employed for many domestic purposes. When made into charcoal, it is much esteemed for drawing; and in superstitious times its young forked twigs were supposed to possess a charm against witchcraft, and by some were used as divining rods.

Under the shade and protection of some hedges, the little modest Adoxa muscatinella (taburous moschatell), is to be found. Its stem grows to the height of three or four inches, and supports a cubical head of green flowers, each containing eight stamens and four pistils; two ternate leaves grow opposite each other about the middle of its stem. The radical leaves are generally about four in number, and branched into doubly ternate divisions. In the evening, when moistened with dew, it diffuses an agreeable musky odour. On our low walls, especially those which are capped with turf, the Draba verna (common whitlow grass) is very abundant. Its little, rough, elliptical leaves lie flat on the turf from whence it springs, and form a verdant circle around its root. Its stalk is two or three inches in height, and sustains a few white flowers; its pod is short, elliptical, and compressed, and is almost constantly attended by Thalopi bursa pastoris (shepherd's purse), and not unfrequently by the wall cress (Arabis thalina).

In our sheltered glens, the little primrose (Primula vulgaris). a universal favourite, delights our eye as it peeps from under the projecting rocks, while the dog violet (Viola canina) and V. ederate, the sweet violet, regale us with their odoriferous perfame. The golden saxifrage (Chrysosplenium oppositifolium and alternifolium) cover the moist rocks with a coat of succeitent green, which is enlivened by the citron and orange tint of their little umbelliferous-growing flowers. The dry banks of these giens are spangled with the large white flowers of the handsome wood anemone (Anemone nemorosa and Oxalis acetocella, or And in more marshy situations the bulbiferous toothwort (Cardamine bulbifera) begins to open its large purple blossoms. The pilewort (Ranunculus ficaria), with its shining vellow petals, is also in abundance. The dog mercury (Mercurialis perennis) in these sheltered places is abundant at all sea-It is a herbaceous plant, and grows to the height of a foot. Its leaves are rough, serrated, and produced on the upper part of the stem. Its flowers are green, and grow in loose spikes. Formerly this plant was much used in medicine, and on the continent is still employed in decoctions as a laxative. Lightfoot considers it to be poisonous, and says that there have been instances where eating it by mistake has proved fatal.

The BLACKTHORN.

[By W. Howitt.]

The April air is shrewd and keen,
No leaf has dared unfold,
Yet thy white blossom's radiant sheen,

Spring's banner, I behold.

Though all beside be dead and drear

Though all beside be dead and drear, Undanntedly thy flowers appear.

Thou com'st the herald of a host Of blooms which will not fail,

When summer from some southern coast

Shall call the nightingale. Yet early, fair, rejoicing tree, Sad are the thoughts intringed

Sad are the thoughts inspired by thee.

All other trees are wont to wear First leaves, then flowers, and last,

Their burthen of rich fruit to bear When summer's pride is past: But thou,—so prompt thy flowers to sh

But thou,—so prompt thy flowers to show, Bear'st but the harsh, unwelcome sloe.

So oft young genius, at its birth, In confidence untried,

Spreads its bright blossoms o'er the earth, And revels in its pride;

But when we look its fruit to see, It stands a fair but barren tree.

So oft, in stern and barbarous lands,

The bard is heard to sing, Ere the uncultured soul expands

In the poetic spring;

Then, sad and bootless are his pains, And linked with wee his name remains.

Therefore, thou tree whose early bough All blossomed meets the gale,

Thou stirrest in my memory now Full many a tearful tale:

And early, fair, rejoicing tree, Sad are the thoughts inspired by thee'.

An Italian Spring.

Spring advanced, and the mountains looked forth from beneath the snow: the chestnuts began to as-

¹ See Hone's Every Day Book, vol. iii, p. 528.

sume their light and fan-like foliage: the dark ilex and cork-trees which crowned the hills threw off their burthen of snow; and the olives, now in flower, starred the mountain-paths with their small fallen blossoms: the heath perfumed the air; the melancholy voice of the cuckoo issued from the depths of the forests; the swallows returned from their pilgrimage; and in soft moonlight evenings, the nightingales answered one another from the copses; the vines with freshest green hung over the springing corn, and various flowers adorned the banks of each running stream.—Valperga.

An April Morn in Scotland.

Lines written in the fields, and sent to a Young Lady, inclosing a Gowan.

Come leave, my love, the town's retreats—
Now flowers the vallies adorn;
O come, and taste the balmy sweets
That breathe on an April morn:
For beauty beams on the flowery dale,
And the starry gowan blinks on the vale;—
O come, O come!

The lavroc joins at purple dawn,
The ploughboy on the lea;
And each attunes o'er the dewy lawn
His notes of harmony.
Here spring, yelad in flowery wreaths,
The balmy sweets of pleasure breathes;
Then come, O come!

The dewy pink, like a star of morn,
Shines bright 'mid the flowery train;
The gowan white, like a star of light,
Bedecks the tinted plain;
Then leave the town, and come with me,
Where the pink and gowan deck the lea;
O come, O come!

By hazled haugh, and shady grove,
We'll seek some cool retreat;
And, should a woodlark sing of love,
I'll join his note so sweet:
For Nature invites thy footstep here,
'Mid budding thorn and scented brier;—
Then come, O come!

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

April.

The thermometer ranges this month in the shade. upon an average, from 73 in the morning to 88 in the afternoon, Fahrenheit. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta 5 h. 41 m. sets 6 h. 19 m. This month is sometimes very pleasant, particularly the commencement. when the atmosphere is rendered cool and refreshing by the frequency of north-westers. The wind blows from the southward, and is very strong all through the month: but when it comes with hot air, for want of rain (and the arid and moist exhalations after rain), it makes every exertion of the human system tiresome, fatiguing, and oppressive. The north-westers are sometimes attended with very heavy thunder and lightning, which do frequently much and extensive damage; they come on generally about the end of March, and continue at intervals till the middle of Mav.

Meat about this season begins to be flabby and poor; the fat spongy and yellow: very little good meat of any description to be found in the market. Vegetables are nearly all out, except potatoes, asparagus, and a few cabbage-sprouts. Water-melons, and what is commonly called the musk-melon, are now in great perfection; indeed, they are the only eatable fruit to be found at market. Green mangoes for pickling, and corinda for tarts, are to be had

in abundance.

The fish-market, this month, has the valuable addition of mangoe-fish, so called from their annual visit into all the Bengal rivers, at this (the mangoe) season, to spawn: they appear as soon as the mangoe fruit is formed on the tree, and disappear at the close of their season, about the middle of July. This fish has an agreeable flavour, and is much sought after (by natives as well as by Europeans), although not so

large as a middle-sized whiting. At the beginning of the month, they are sold at the rate of six rupees per dozen, and before the end of May they are one rupee the score; the carp and the mhagoor are also now procurable in the market, and two to three score may be had for one rupee in June.

MAY.

MAY was thus named from *Maia*, the mother of Mercury. Its tutelar deity was *Apollo*. The sign of this month is *Gemini*.

Remarkable Bays

In MAY 1827.

1 .- SAINT JAMES THE LESS AND SAINT PHILIP.

St. James the Less was surnamed the Just: the name Philip signifies a lover of horses, generous, and a warrior. St. James is said to have resembled our Saviour in person and appearance, of whom he was the brother, or rather cousin-german. Cleophas was his father; and he was named the Less, bec use he was called to the apostleship after Saint James, the brother of John the Evangelist, and the son of Zebedee. Saint James was the first bishop of Jerusalem, and the early Christians, in some of their legends say, that he had the privilege to enter into that part of the Temple called the 'Holy of Holies.' He was hurled from the top of the Temple by the people: the high profess had condemned him to death.

Saint Philip of Galilee, as well as Saint James the Less, preached in Upper Asia, passed into Scythia, and visited Hieropolis in Phrygia, where the people worshipped a monstrous viper, which was put to death by the holy apostle. The priests of the viper or serpent crucified Philip, and then stoned him to

death.

3.—INVENTION OF THE CROSS,

Or finding of the cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine. According to a Catholic writer, the Jews having concealed the cross on which our Saviour suffered in a deep fosse or ditch, together with the crosses of the two thieves, they filled this ditch with earth, and covered it with stones, and the Romans raised a statue to Venus on its site: it was a short distance from the sepulchre, which was also carefully concealed; but notwithstanding the precautions of the Jews and Romans, that the cross and the sepulchre might not be discovered, St. Helena found both the one and the other, and the church celebrates this festival in memory of the discovery.

Though we look upon the materiall cross as a great rarity (which at Rome they idolize and use, beholding to our St. Helena for it) and honour that bearing, as the churches coate of arms, yet our true sense and religious use thereof, appears in our remembrances and obligations by it to brotherly love and charity; the Welsh having no other word to express-welcome, which ought to be from the heart, but criso, which is derived from the cross, mae chivi croeso, you are welcome in the cross. Though they believe no purgatory, yet it is usual with them at the death of their friends to wish the party deceased a good resurrection, Duw a Ro iddo Ailgyfodiad da, God grant him a good resurrection, an antient practice in the eastern church.—The Heart and its Sovereign, by T. J.

Some cathedrals were built with a single cross, representing that whereon our Saviour was crucified, (for since Constanstine's *In hoc vinces*, churches have not been only so built, but the sails of ships have been furled up in manner of a cross), some were built with a double cross, the uppermost representing that whereon the title was written, INRI. Not only churches, but some towns in England, seem

to be built after the manner of a cross, especially Gloucester.—It was a custom in conventual churches to hang an Agnus Dei at the top of the steeple or spire, which the religious thought a charm against storms and thunder.—Note of Bishop Kennett in the Aubrey MS., A.D. 1686.

6.—JOHN EVANGELIST, A. P. L.

The stery which gave rise to this day is as follows: 'The emperour Domycyen commanded Johan should be brought to Rome; and when he was there, they broughte him tofore the gate called Porte Latyn, and put hym in a tonne ful of brenning oyle; but he never felte harme ne payne. And wythout suffrying ony harme he yssued out.' On the contrary, says Ribadeneira, he came out of the cauldron more resplendent and more vigorous than when he had entered it. St. John was banished to the isle of Patmos, and there he remained till the death of Domitian, when he returned into Asia.

*16. 1826.—ELIZABETH-ALEXIOWNA, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, DIED, ÆT. 46,

Relict of Alexander, Emperor of all the Russias. Her imperial majesty had never recovered from the shock which she sustained on the death of the emperor, upon whom, during his last illness, she attended with unremitting and devoted affection. A proclamation issued on the occasion of her death affirms, that 'this distressing event took place after a long sickness both of mind and body.' Her majesty was the Princess Louisa-Maria-Augusta, second daughter of Charles-Louis, Hereditary Prince of Baden, who died in 1801. She was born in 1779, and married in 1793. assumed the name of Elizabeth-Alexiowna on becoming of the Greek religion. Her life was short, but it was filled with acts of beneficence, adorned with all the virtues that can dignify woman: she would have been worthy of the most splendid throne.

had not fate placed her upon it. Her majesty's eldest sister is the queen dowager of Bavaria; her younger sisters are Frederica, late queen of Sweden, and the hereditary grand duchess of Hesse Darmstadt.

*18. 1826.—REV. JAMES BEAN DIED, ÆT. 72,

Assistant Keeper of the printed books in the British Museum. He was author of an octavo volume, entitled 'Zeal without Innovation;' a volume of sermons called, 'Parochial Instruction;' 'The Evidence and Design of Christianity considered, in a Letter to a Gentleman; and 'Family Worship; a Course of Morning and Evening Prayers.' Several of his prayers are translated into French by Professor Levade, and published in his Liturgie de Famille, printed at Lausanne in 1823. We regret it is not in our power to furnish any further particulars of this amiable and excellent man; his extreme humility and almost morbid dread of publicity having induced him to desire, in his last moments, that no biography of him should be published, and that not a stone should tell where he lay! Mr. Bean was succeeded in his appointment at the Museum, by the Rev. Mr. Cary, the well-known translator of Dante.

19.—SAINT DUNSTAN.

St. Dunstan was born at Glastonbury in 924. He was successively Bishop of Worcester and London, and Archbishop of Canterbury. He died in 988.

20.—ROGATION SUNDAY.

This day takes its name from the Latin term rogare, to ask; because, on the three subsequent days, supplications were appointed by Mamertus, Bishop of Vienna, in the year 469, to be offered up with fasting to God, to avert some particular calamities that threatened his diocese.—M. Chateaubriand, in his Beauties of Christianity, gives the following pleas-

ing account of the observation of the rogation days in France.

The bells of the village church strike up, and the rustics immediately quit their various employments. The vine-dresser descends the hill, the husbandman hastens from the plain, the woodscutter leaves the forest: the mothers sallying from their huts, arrive with their children; and the young maidens relinquish their spinning-wheels, their sheep, and the fountains, to attend the rural festival.

They assemble in the parish churchyard, on the verdant grave of their forefathers. The only ecclesiastic who is to take part in the ceremony soon appears; this is some aged paster, known only by the appellation of the parson, in which his proper name is lost. He advances from his parsonage which stands contiguous to the abode of the dead, whose ashes it overlooks. He is fixed in his habitation, like an advanced guard on the frontier of life, to receive those who enter and those who depart from this vale of tears. A well, some poplars, a vine climbing about his window, and a few pigeons, constitute all the wealth of this venerable minister of the Temple of the Most High.

The apostic of the gospel now assembles his flock before the principal entrance of the church; he delivers a discourse which must certainly be very impressive, to judge from the tears of his audience. He frequently repeats the words, My children, my dearly beloved children! and herein consists the whole secret of

the eloquence of this rustic Chrysostom.

The exhortation ended, the assembly begins to move off, singing 'Ye shall go forth with pleasure, and ye shall be received with joy; the hills shall leap, and shall hear you with delight. The standard of the saints, the antique banner of the days of chivalry, opens the procession; the villagers follow their pastor. They pursue their course through lanes overshadowed with trees, and deeply cut by the wheels of the rustic vehicles; they climbover high barriers formed by a single trunk of a tree; they proceed along a hedge of hawthorn, where the bee hums, where the bullfinch and the blackbird whistle. The budding trees display the promise of their fruit; all nature is a nosegay of flowers. The woods, the valleys, the rivers, the rocks, all hear in their turns the hymns of the husbandmen, in their course through the plains enamelled by the hand of their Creator.

At length the rustics return to their labour: religion designed not to make the day on which they implore the Almighty to bless the produce of the earth, a day of idleness. With what confidence the ploughman plunges his share into the soil, after addressing his supplications to Him who governs the spheres, and who keeps in his treasuries the breezes of the south and fertilizing showers! To finish well a day so piously begun, the eld men of the village

repair at night to converse with their pastor. The moon then sheds her last beams on this festival, which the church has made to correspond with the return of the most pleasant of the months, and the course of the most mysterious of the constellations. Amid the silence of the woods arise unknown voices, as from the choir of raral angels whose succour has been implored; and the plaintive and sweet notes of the nightingale salute the ears of the veterans, seated in friendly converse beneath the lofty poplars.

24.—ASCENSION DAY.

From the earliest times, a day was set apart to commemorate our Lord's ascension into Heaven. On this day parish boundaries are frequently perambulated, accompanied by well-known customs. Penkridge in Staffordshire, as well as at Wolverhampton, long since the reformation, during the time of processioning, the inhabitants used to adorn their wells with boughs and flowers; and this elegant custom is still practised annually at Tissington in Derbyshire, where it is denominated 'well-flowering.'

The following account of this pleasing ceremony, by the Rev. R. R. Rawlins, is too interesting not to find a place in our annual record of past and present customs. 'The season chosen by the villagers of Tissington to dress their wells is on Ascension-day. There are five wells, and the psalms appointed for morning service, with the Epistle and Gospel for the day, being omitted at church, were read by Mr. Gibbs, one at each well, when a psalm was also sung by the parish choir. I officiated in the church, and preached a sermon on the occasion, from 1 Peter, 3d chap. former part of 22d verse. The method of decorating the wells is this: The flowers are inserted in moist clay, and put upon boards, cut in various forms, surrounded with boughs of laurel and white-thorn, so as to give an appearance of water issuing from small grottoes. The flowers are adjusted and arranged in various patterns, to give the effect of mosaic work. having inscribed upon them texts of Scripture appropriate to the season, and sentences expressive of the

kindness of the Deity. They vary each year; and as the wells are dressed by persons contiguous to the springs, so their ideas vary. I copied the sentiments and texts from each, at the same time taking an account of the style in which the wells were dressed,

and the patterns formed by the flowers.

'From the church, the congregation walked to the first, or the Hall Well; so called, from being opposite to the house of the antient family of Fitzherbert. Here was read the first psalm for the day, and another sung. As there is a recess at the back of the well, and an elevated wall, a great profusion of laurel branches were placed upon it, interspersed with daffodils, china roses, and marsh-marigolds. Over the spring was a square board, surmounted with a crown, composed of white and red daisies. The board being covered with moss, had written upon it in red daisies,

'While he blessed them, he was carried up into heaven.'

'The second, or Hand's Well. This was also surrounded with laurel branches, and had a canopy placed over it, covered with polyanthuses. The words on the canopy were,

'The Lord's unsparing hand Supplies us with this spring.'

The letters'were formed with the bud of the larch, and between the lines were two rows of purple primroses and marsh-marigolds. In the centre above the spring, on a moss ground, in letters of white daisies,

'Sons of earth
'The triumph join.'

Beneath was formed in auriculas, 'G. R.'

The second psalm for the day was read here.

'The third, or Frith's Well. This was greatly admired, as it was situated in Mr. Frith's garden, and the shrubs around it were numerous. Here were formed two arches, one within the other. The first

had a ground of wild hyacinths, and purple primroses, edged with white, on which was inscribed in red daisies, "Ascension."

"The receding arch was covered with various flowers, and in the centre, on a ground of marsh-marigolds, edged with wild hyacinths, in red daisies,

'Peace be unto you.'

Here was read the third psalm for the day.

'The fourth, or Holland's Well, was thickly surrounded with branches of whitethorn placed in the earth. This well springs from a small coppice of firs and thorns. The form of the erection over it was a circular arch, and in the centre, on a ground of marshmarigolds, edged with purple primroses, in red daisies, these words,

'In God is all.'

At this well was read the Epistle.

'The fifth, or Miss Goodwin's Well, was surrounded with branches of evergreens; having on a Gothic arch, covered with massh-marigolds, daffodils, and wild hyacinths, the following in red daisies,

'He did no sin.'

On the summit of the arch was placed a crown of laurel, over which was a cross of white daisies, edged with wild hyacinths; on the transverse piece of the cross, "I. H. S." was placed in red daisies. At the

well was read the Gospel.

'The day concluded by the visitors partaking the hospitality of the inhabitants, and being gratified with a well-arranged band, playing appropriate pieces of music at each other's houses; and had the day been more favourable, and free from rain, a greater attendance at church and the wells would have been witnessed.'—See the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xciii, part II, p. 293.

The custom of well-flowering existed formerly at

Oxford, as appears from the following extract from Ant. à Wood:—

'The Fellows of New College in Oxford have, time out of mind, every Holy Thursday, betwixt the hours of eight and nime, gonne to the Hospitell called Bart'lemews neer Oxford; where they retire into the chapell, and certaine prayers are read, and an antheme sung: from whence they goe to the upper end of the grove adjoining to the chapell (the way being beforehand strewed with flowers by the poor people of the Hospitall), they place themselves round about the well there, where they warble forth melodiously a song of three, or four, or five parts: which being performed, they refresh themselves with a morning's-draught there, and retire to Oxford, before sermon.'

26.—AUGUSTIN, or AUSTIN,

First Archbishop of Canterbury.—This eminent individual was sent over by Gregory the Great, A. D. 596. Austin found paganism covering the greater part of the island; but a considerable number of Christians and seven bishops among the Britons or Welsh. He laboured actively and successfully, and died May 26, A.D. 607.

*26. 1826.—THE GODIVA PAGEANT AT COVENTRY. The following account of this celebrated Show, the origin of which is too well known to be repeated here, is extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine for 1826, vol. xcvi, part I, pp. 22, et seq. We think it sufficiently curious to be presented to our readers, as it is, we understand, a very accurate narrative of the pageant as it was celebrated in the last year. The Shew (although not depending on any charter) was an annual occurrence until within these few years, but it is now only occasionally presented. The inhabitants of the city are always found to contribute liberally to the support of this popular exhibition, and a committee is generally appointed to superintend the ulterior arrangements. For some previous weeks the greatest preparations are made in the city—the houses are newly painted and whitewashed: and ribbons and cockades are distributed in profusion to those who are to be employed in the procession. The morning of the festival is ushered in by the ringing of bells-every species of vehicle, from the humble cart to the splendid carriage, is

charved moving to the attractive scene—and the streets, houses, and hattlements of the churches, are thronged with spectators.

Prior to the movement of the grand cavalcade through the principal streets, the Mayor, Magistrates, and Charter Officers,

regularly attend divine service at Trinity Church.

At twelve e'clock the procession moves forward from the County Hall, and having passed through all the principal streets of the city, terminates at the same place about half-past three. The boys belonging to the Bablake School occasionally sing the national authem in different parts of the city; which intermingled with the ringing of bells, and the melodious sounds arising from suncessive bands of martial music, form altogether a scene be-

yand the power of language to describe.

At the head of the procession, walking two and two, are the City Guards attired in suits of black armour of the make of the 17th century, which have lately been repaired and painted; vis. consists, back pieces, and skirts; they have morions on their heads, and bills of different shapes in their hands. Then immediately follows, on a charger, the patron of England, St. George, in full black armour. St. George is the patron saint of the Taylors' Company in Coventry. He is represented by the author of the Seven Champions of Christendom to have been born, and after wasses to have resided, in the town; and an antient building called St. George's Chapel was lately taken down in Gosford-street.

Two large city streamers are next brought to view, beautifully gft and painted with various devices, on which are depicted the City arms, viz. an elephant with a triple-towered castle on bis-back; with a cat-a-mountain forming the crest; and three ostrich-feathers, given to Coventry by Edward Prince of Wales,

commonly called the Black Prince.

The High Constable then advances, followed by a female to represent LADY GODIVA, who rides on a grey horse, not literally like the good Countess, with her own dishevelled hair, but in a slight drapery, which is tastefully decorated with wreaths of flowers. Her long tresses are also beautifully curled and adorned with fillet of flowers, the whole being surmounted by a hand-some plume of white ostrich feathers. On each side, are the City Cryer and Beadle, with pink cockades in their hats; they are also distinguished by wearing the elephant and castle (in silver) on their left arms—the left side of this dress is green, the right scarbet, agreeing with the field of the City arms.

Every person conversant with the history of England with recollect that the red rose was the peculiar mark of distinction of the: House of Lancaster and its adherents. Henry VI made Coventry a county, conferring on it many privileges and immunities. The colour universally adopted by the citizens of Coventry was consequently red or pink, and it has thus passed through

mineculing ages to the present day.

The persons who lead the horses, and otherwise attendithe Corporation, are dressed in waistcoats; and ribbons of this colour are tied round the arms and knees.

Then follow the Mayor's Cryer, who occasionally proclaims the Fair; and persons carrying the antient and costly insignia of office belonging to the Corporation, viz. the sword and large

mace, and crimson velvet hat and cap of maintenance.

We next view the Mayor and ten Aldermen, with wands in their hands, in their scarlet gowns lined with fur, and cocked hats. Then follow the two Sheriffs, Common Council, two Chamberlains (who have the management of the common and lammas grounds), and two Wardens, all dressed in black gowns, and

bearing wands.

The Mayor, Charter Officers, the Masters of Companies, and the Stewards of the Societies, are attended by little boys, beautifully and splendidly dressed in various-coloured clothes, trimmed with silver or gold fringe; their hats adorned with plumes of feathers, their horses gaily dressed with rosettes of ribbon; and saddle-cloths trimmed in a tasteful and superior manner. These children are called Followers, although they sometimes precede the persons to whom they belong.

The Masters of the different Companies, with their followers and streamers, add considerably to the splendour of the cavalcade. Each Company has a characteristic flag, on which is painted the arms; and the Follower carries a symbol of the respective trade. The antient dresses of the attendants are also

highly deserving of attention.

The loyal independent order of Odd Fellows, and the Benefit Societies, attended by their followers and flags, are next observed. Then follow the Woolcombers' Company, attired a large jersey wigs and habits, dyed of different colours, with a singular woollen flag; these add considerably to the novelty of the scene. After the Master and Follower, are a beautiful boy and girl, representing a shepkerd and shepherdess, holding crooks, sitting under a spacious arbour composed of boughs and flowers, erected on a carriage drawn by horses; the boy carrying a dog, and the girl, elegantly dressed, carrying a lamb upon her lap, and holding a bouquet of flowers made of wool. Until lately they were accustomed to ride separately on horses, with the above attributes.

We then notice Jason, with a golden fleece in his left hand, and a drawn sword in his right, as the champion and protector

of the Fleece.

The last prominent figure in the procession is the venerable Bishop Blase, with his black mitre of wool, and lawn sleeves, carrying a Bible in his left hand, and a wool-comb in the right Over his white shirt, two broad black belts of jersey are crossed, which considerably add to the singular appearance of this cha-

racter. The bridle is held on each side by a page; and his attendints are dressed in white, with sashes, scarfs, and high caps, all made of wool, and carry wands. Blase suffered martyrdom, by decapitation, in the year 289, after being cruelly whipped with securges, and his flesh lacerated with iron combs (whence his symbol). The woolcombers call Bishop Blase their patron saint; and they attribute to him, erroneously, the invention of their useful art.

27.—VENERABLE BEDE.

This great ornament of his age and country was born at Jarrow, in the bishopric of Durham, A.D. 672, and died in 735. His works were published at Basle, in 8 vols. folio.

29.—KING CHARLES II RESTORED.

On the 8th of May 1660, Charles II was proclaimed in London and Westminster, and afterwards throughout his dominions, with great joy and universal acclamations. The 29th is still celebrated in some parts of England with considerable 'pomp and circumstance,' gaiety and splendour.—For an account of the rejoicings which preceded the Restoration of King Charles II, see our last volume, p. 180.

Astronomical Occurrences

In MAY 1827.

O praise the Lord of Heaven: praise him in the height: praise him all ye angels of his: praise him all his host: praise him SUN and Mbow: praise him all ye STARS and LIGHT. Praise him all ye HEAVENS, and ye waters that are above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he spake the word and they were made; he commanded, and they were created. He hath made them fast for ever and ever: he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

\$\top P_{\textit{S}}\$ exiviti, \$\tilde{v}\$. 1-6.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Gemini at 49 m. after 9 in the evening of the 21st of this month; and he rises and sets, during the same period, as in the following

Of the Sun's	TABLE Rising and Setting on every fifth Day
6th Ìlth 16th 21s 26th	t, Sun rises 38 m. after 4. Sets 22 m. after 7 h,

Equation of Time.

Occasions frequently occur when it is required to convert apparent into mean time, which is to be done by employing the numbers as directed in the following

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Tuesday, May 1st, from the time by the dial subtract	9 59
Sunday, 6th,	8 33
Friday, 11th,	3 51
Wednesday, 16th,	3 56
Monday, · · · · 21st,	9 69
Saturday, 26th,	9 47
Andray, wist, present the second control of the second control	

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

First Quarter, 4th day, at 25 m. after	
Full Moon, 11th 25	
New Moon, 25th 40	

Eclipses of the Moon.

The Moon will be eclipsed on the morning of the 11th of this month. The eclipse will begin at 47 m. past 6, and end about 53 m. after 9. The digits eclipsed will be 11° 47! on the Moon's southern limb; and the eclipse will be visible to the greater part of the western hemisphere and the Pacific Ocean.

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The Moon will pass the meridian at the following times this month, which will be favourable for observation, if the weather prove clear. The times, of course, refer to the meridian of the Royal Observatory, but may readily be reduced to that of any other place in the United Kingdom.

May 2d,	at 2	m. after	5 in the	afternoon
		3		
4th,	84		6	
		l		evening
		3		
			8	
		3		,,
			10	
10th,	40		11	
			4 in the	
			5	
21st,	44		8	

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

From the following times of high water at London Bridge, for certain days during the present month, the hours for other days, as well as other places, may be found by the directions already given for that purpose.

TABLE OF TIDES.

Morning.	Afternoon.	
Morning. May 1st, at 11 m. after	5 30 m. after 5	
	9 210	
	2 33 2	
	5 29 6	
	10 17 11	
	2 55 2	
	5 43 5	

PLANETARY PHENOMENA.

Phases of Venus.

The following are the proportions of the phases of Venus at this time:—

May 1st, { Illuminated part = 8.77668 Dark part.... = 8.22332

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

There will be twenty-six eclipses of the first and second of these satellites this month, but only the following will be visible in this country; viz.

Emersions.

riest bateinte,		so m. 10 s. atter	
·	12th	33 30	l in the morning
•			9 in the evening
	27th	50 56	ll at night
			11
,	10th		I in the mamine

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

May 9th with a in Virgo, at 10 in the morning 16th, ... \$\beta\$ in Capricorn, ... 5

Other Phenomena.

Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 3d of this month, and Georgium Sidus will be stationary on the 4th.

The following Poem has been ascribed to Mr. CAMPBELL, author of 'The Pleasures of Hope,' &c., and we introduce it here for the entertainment of our readers, to whom an attentive perusal of it will doubtless be gratifying.

To the EVENING STAR.

Gem of the crimson coloured even, Companion of retiring day, Why at the closing gates of Heav'n, Beloved star, dost thou delay?

So fair thy pensile beauty burns, When soft the tear of twilight flows; So due thy plighted step returns, To chambers brighter than the rose.

Topeace, to pleasure, and to love, So kind a star thou seem'st to be, Sure some enamoured orb above Descends and burns to meet with thee!

Thine is the breathing, blushing hour When all unheav'nly passions fly. Chased by the soul-subduing pow'r Of Love's delicious ecstasy!

O, sacred to the fall of day, Queen of propitious stars! appear, And early rise, nor long delay, When Caroline herself is here. Shine on her chosen green resort, Whose trees the sunward summit crown; And wanton flowers, that well may court An angel's feet to tread them down. Shine on her sweetly-scented road, Thou star of evining's purple dome; That leads the nightingale abroad, And guid'st the pilgrim to his home. Shine where my charmer's sweeter breath Embalms the soft exhaling dew, Where dying winds a sigh bequeath To kiss the cheek of rosy bue: Where, winnowed by the gentle air, Her silken tresses darkly flow, And fall upon her brow so fair, . Like shadows on the mountain snow. Thus, ever thus, at day's decline In converse sweet to wander far, O bring with thee my CAROLINE, And thou shalt be my Ruling Star!

The Naturalist's Diary

For MAY 1827.

When I go musing in this happy time,
The opening of a late, but shining May,
Through winding lanes that over me display
High banks with the wood-sorrel's flowers in prime;
And rich, luxuriant herbege, with the rime
Of night-dews slightly silvered; where the gay,
Fresh, young-leaved branches all around me play;
And when I hear that old, familiar chime
Of chaffinch, and wood-creeper, and that voice
Of summer nights, the cowering corn-crake's call,
I can no more keep down the sudden leap
Of my touched heart, thus bidden to rejoice,
Than I could charm back Nature into sleep,
Or chill her bosom with a wintry pall.

W. Hew

HOWEVER the festivities with which our ancestors hailed the opening of this month may have sunk into neglect, Nature has not forsaken her festivities. She still scatters flowers, and revels in dews; she still loves her leafy garniture, and the burst of unoppressive sunshine; for, though we moderns may

abandon the customs of our forefathers, and may even deny to May those joyous attributes with which they delighted to invest her; though we complain of cold winds, dull days, and frosty nights, cutting down flower and leaf, and have them too, yet is May a gladsome month withal. Vegetation has made a proud progress; it has become deep, lavish, luxuriating, and nothing can be more delightful than the tender green of the young hawthorn leaves. Primroses still scatter their millions of pale stars over shady banks, and among the mossy roots of hazels; and, once more, amid the thickly-springing verdure of the meadow, we hail the spetted and golden

Cowslips.

Oh! fragrant dwellers of the lea,
When first the wild-wood rings
With each sound of vernal minstrelsy,
When fresh the green grass springs!

What can the blessed Spring restore
More gladdening than your charms;
Bringing the memory once more
Of lovely fields and farms?

Of thickets, breezes, birds and flowers;
Of life's unfolding prime;
Of thoughts as cloudless as the hours;
Of souls without a crime.

Oh! blessed, blessed do ye seem,
For, even now, I turned,
With sen! athirst for wood and stream,
From streets that glared and burned.

From the hot town, where mortal care
His crowded fold doth pen;
Where stagnates the polluted air
In many a sultry den.

And ye are here! and ye are here! Drinking the dew-like wine, Midst living gales, and waters clear, And heaven's unstinted shine.

I care not that your little life
Will quickly have run through,
And the sward, with summer children rife,
Keep not a trace of you.

For again, again, on dewy plain,
I trust to see you rise,
When Spring renews the wild-wood strain,
And bluer gleam the skies.

Again, again, when many springs
Upon my grave shall shine.
Here shall you speak of vanished things
To living hearts of mine.

w. Howitt

In the woods there is a bright azure gleam of Myosotis sylvatica, a species of Forget-me-not, and of those truly vernal flowers called, by botanists, Scilla nutans; by poets, blue bells; and by country folk, cuckoo's stockings. The ferns too are pushing forth their russet scrolls amongst the forest moss and dead leaves. In pools (and none of our indigenous plants can rival the aquatic ones in elegance and delicate beauty) are this month found that lovely thing the water-violet (Hottonia palustris), and the buckbean (Menyanthis trifoliata), like a fringed hyacinth. The gorse is glorious on heaths and in lanes, and so is also the 'bonny broom,' which has won another wreath in the following original

Song.

Oh! the broom, the bonny, bonny broom, On my native hills it grows; I had rather see the bonny broom Than the rarest flower that blows. Oh! the yellow broom is blossoming In my own dear countree,-I never thought so small a thing As a flower my nerveless heart could wring Or have drawn a tear from me. It minds me of my native bills Clad in the heath and fern; Of the green strath, and the flowery brae, Of the gien and the rocky burn; It minds me of dearer things than these,— Of love with life entwined: Of humble faith on bended knees: Of home joys gone, and memories, Like sere leaves left behind.

It minds me of that blessed home,
Of the friends so true to me,
Of my warm-hearted Highland love
When the broom was the trysting tree;
I loathe this fair, but foreign strand
With its fadeless summer bloom;
And I swear, by my dear native land,
Again on the heathy hills to stand
Where waves the vellow broom.

MARY HOWITT.

Towards the close of the month, the mind, which has been continually led onwards by the expansion of days, leaves, and flowers, seems to repose on the fulness of nature. Every thing is clothed. The spring actually seems past. We are surrounded by all that beauty, sunshine, and melody, which mingle in our ideas of summer. The hawthorn is in full flower,—the leafy hedges appear half buried in the lofty grass.—Butterflies take their wavering flight from flower to flower, and dragonflies on the banks of rivers. Cattle, fed to satiety, repose in meadows golden with crowfoot; and sheep-washing is begun in many places. The mowing-grass presents a mosaic of the most gorgeous and inimitable hues, or is white with waving umbels. A passing gale awakens a scene of lively animation. The massy foliage oftrees swings heavily—the boughs of the hawthorn wave with all their loads of fragrant bloom, and the snowy, umbelliferous plants toss on the lea like foam on a stormy ocean. Now. sweet Poesy.

Let thy happy votary roam,
For the green earth is his home.
When the tree-tops are besnowed
With the blossom's gorgeous load,
And the forest's verdant pall
Shrouds the missel in her hall;
In the hawthorn's pleasant boughs,
Where a thousand blithe birds house:
When the meadows are brimful
Of all flowers that children pull,
Saxifrages, cardamines,
Kingcup which in deep gold shines;

Dandelion with globe of down
The school-boy's clock in ev'ry town,
Which the truant puffs amain
To conjure lost hours back again:
Then, 'tis then, I love to meet
Thy true sons' way-faring feet,
As I have, ere now, descried
By the thunderous falls of Clyde,
Or where bright Loch Katrine fills
Such a space, between such hills
As no lake hesides it may,
Since Eden's waters passed away.

W. HOWITT

Cottage gardens are now perfect paradises; and, after gazing on their sunny quietude, their lilacs, peonies, wall-flowers, tulips, and corcoruses, with their yellow tufts of flowers, now becoming as common at the doors of village cots as the rosemary and rue once were—one cannot help regretting that more of our labouring classes do not enjoy the freshness of earth, and the pure breeze of heaven, in these little rural retreats, instead of being buried in close and sombre alleys. A man who can, in addition to telerable remuneration for the labour of his hands, enjoy a clean cottage and a garden amidst the common but precious offerings of Nature, the grateful shade of trees and flow of waters, a pure atmosphere and a riant sky, can scarcely be called poor.

If Burns had been asked what was the greatest luxury of May, we suppose he would have quoted

from his 'Cotter's Saturday Night,'

If heaven a draught of heavenly pleasure spare,
One cordial in this melancholy vale,
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest pair
In others' arms breathe out the tender tale
Beneath the milk-white thorn that scents the evening gale.

at which Gilpin would quote, from his 'Forest Scenery,' a passage, proving the poets to be very foolish for their admiration of so insignificant and inelegant a bush. We, however, shall take part with Burns, only we would conjure a nightingale into his hawthorn, and the hawthorn into a forest; for of all

:

May delights, listening to the nightingale is the great-'The leader of the vernal chorus,' says the Histoire des Oiseaux, 'begins with a low and timid voice; and he prepares for the hymn to nature, by essaying his powers and attuning his organs. By degrees, the sound opens and swells; it bursts with loud and vivid flashes; it flows with smooth volubility; it faints and murmurs; it shakes with rapid and violent articulations; the soft breathings of love and joy are poured from his inmost soul: and every heart beats in unison, and melts with delicious languor. But this continued richness might satiate the ear. The strains are, at times, relieved by pauses, which bestow dignity and elevation. The mild silence of evening heightens the general effect, and not a rival interrupts the scene.' And when this, instead of evening, is heard at still midnight, the moon and stars above you filling with lustre the clear, blue sky, the trees lifting up their young and varied foliage to the silvery show, the deer quietly resting in their thickest shadow, and the night-breeze, ever and anon, wafting through the air 'Sabean odours:' then, if you feel neither love nor poetry, depend upon it, you are neither lover nor poet. As however, in this country, nightingales are as capricious as the climate, a good singing gentleman is no bad substitute, as a friend of ours convinced us on such an occasion, making the woods echo with the 'Pibroch of Donnel Dhu.'

To a NIGHTINGALE.

Tis night! awake, awake!
And from thy leafy covert raise thy voice!
Pour out thy soul of melody, and make
The silent night rejoice!

Call to the echoes, call

To the far woods that steeped in moonbeams lie;
Call to the quiet sea, the desolate hall,
And each one shall reply,

From out thy leafy boughs
Thy voice is as the trumpet's thro' the wild,
Stirring all hearts; which from deep rest doth rouse
Mother and sleeping child.

Yet not with sense of dread Peasants are gathering in the midnight hours: And high-born maiden goes with stately tread

Down paths of moonlit flowers.

The gentle poet speeds Forth in the dowy hush of night, elate With song and love, and his sweet fancy feeds. Hailing thee his own mate.

Pour forth, pour forth thy strain. Until the blue depths of the heavens are filled: Until the memory of thy secret pain

With thine own song is stilled.

Oh! pour, as thou didst ever, Thy tide of song forth from thy hidden tree. Like unspent waters of a viewless river Feeding the mighty sea.

---When poesy divine Made visible glory by the sacred spring. Thou wast a voice unto the mystic nine At midnight warbling.

Then, from his dreamy mood,. A marvel to himself, the poet sprung, In spiritual might, like one with youth renewed, And smote his lyre and sung.

Oh! as thou wast to him, Touching his spirit with ethereal fire. Be priestless unto us, and our cold, dim, And soulless clay inspire!

Alas! it were unjust To deem thou couldst transmute our iron age: Man has bowed down his spirit to the dust-Has sold his heritage.

We come forth in the night. In the pure dews and silvery light of beaven: But in our bosom lies the deadening blight,-The world's corrupting leaven.

Aye, sing, thou rapturous bird; And though my spirit bear th' impress of ill. Yet pour the holy feeling thou hast stirred, Thy power remaineth still. MARY HOWITT.

Nature has her seasons of solemnity, for which she assembles musicians from all the regions of the globe. Skilful performers with their wondrous sonatas, itinerant minstrels who can only sing short ballads, pilgrims who repeat a thousand and a thousand times the couplets of their long solemn songs, are beheld flocking together from all quarters. The thrush whistles, the turtle moans, the swallow twitters: the first, perched on the topmost branch of an elm, defies our solitary blackbird, who is in no respect inferior to the stranger; the second, concealed amid the foliage of an oak, prolongs her soft cooings like the undulating sounds of a horn in the forests; the third utters her confused cries, as at the time of the good Evander. The red-breast, meanwhile, repeats her simple strain on the door of the barn, where she has built her large mossy nest: but the nightingale disdains to waste her lays amidst this symphony; she waits till night has imposed silence, and takes upon herself that portion of the festival which is celebrated in its shades.

It is a mysterious hour, when the first silence of night and the last murmurs of day struggle for the mastery on the hills, on the banks of the rivers, in the woods and in the vallies; the horizon is still slightly tinged, but darkness already reposes on the earth. At this moment, Nature, with the obscure colonnades of her forests, her dome lighted by the last splendours of eve, resembles an antient temple whose sanctuary is shrouded in sacred night, while the rounded cupola, towering above the clouds, sparkles with the fires of declining day. It is at this hour that Philometa begins her preludes. When the forests have silenced their thousands of voices, when not a blade of grass, not a single moss yet breathes, when the moon is in the heavens, and the ear of man is attentive; then the first songstress of creation chaunts her hymns to the Eternal. She first strikes the echoes with lively bursts of pleasure; disorder pervades her strains; she passes abruptly from flat to sharp, from piano to forte; she pauses: now she is slow and now quick; now it is the expression of a heart intexicated with joy, now a heart palpitating under the weight of love. But her voice suddenly fails; the bird is silent. She begins again—how her notes are changed! What tender melody! Sometimes you hear modulations languishing, yet varied; sometimes a tune more monotonous, like the chorus of our antient ballads, those master-pieces of melancholy and simplicity. Singing is as often the sign of sadness as of joy: the bird that has lost her young still sings; it is still the notes of her happy days that she repeats, for she knows no other; but by a stroke of her art, the musician has merely changed her key, and the song of pleasure is converted into the lamentation of grief.

To a Nightingale,

Singing in a Country Church-Yard'.

Here silence reigns; but, bark! a sound

Steels country on how startled car.

Steals gently on her startled ear, And little echoes whispering round Proclaim the soul of music near.

Tis hushed!—Now soft it breathes again;
The heart, of all its pangs beguiled,
Yields to the melancholy strain,
So full, so deep, so sweetly wild.

The moon is up! and, in her wane, Shines cloudless on this hallowed spot, Where death proclaims that life is vain, And toil and sorrow are forgot.

Dost thou to her, poetic bird, The fate of village bard bemoan,

^{*} This pleasing poem is taken from 'RURAL PICTURES,' a very nicely-printed volume of pretty poetry, by Mr. J. W. Statter, Boet and Shoe-maker, of Oxford; and we have much pleasure in giving the author our passport to the 'Temple of Fame,' not doubting that Mesers. the Reviewers will speedily apportion him an unoccupied niche in this vast and interminable mansion. Mr. Slatter appears to be a modest, sensible man; in his letter to us, he says, 'The volume was published at the request of friends, and without any golden expectations. I have been guilty of the 'sin of rhyme' from my infancy; and even now continue to indulge this propensity, but without neglecting those important avocations which ought continually to engage my attention. And if it were necessary to escape from poetry, I know not how it could be effected, for, to say the least, the love of it appears to be a part of my very being.'

Who sung unheeded and unheard, In strains as tender as thy own?

Who once the harp of sorrow strung, And, bowed by destiny severe, Wept o'er his fortunes as he sung, And only found a shelter here?

Or dost thou, taught by power divine, Remote from yonder giddy throng, To cheer this withered heart of mine, Attane thy sweetest, saddest song?

Sweet meralist! I own the power Supreme, that plumes thy little wing; And surely, at this solemn hour, The bard is blest who hears thee sing.

We cannot take leave of the nightingale, without adding another tribute to this sweet songstress.

Daylight on its last purple cloud Was lingering grey, and soon her train The nightingale began; now loud, Climbing in circles the windless sky, Now dying music; suddenly "Tis scattered in a thousand notes, And now to the hushed ear it floats Like field smells known in infancy, Then failing soothes the air again.

The spotted Fly-catcher is one of our latest summer visitants, never appearing before the middle, and often not till the end, of May. Its food consists entirely of insects, taken on the wing. The method which it adopts for this purpose is somewhat singular, and probably peculiar to itself. Taking its station generally on the top of a post, it watches till an insect passes by, when it suddenly darts forward, hovers for a moment in order to secure its prey, and then returns to the same spot again. This operation it will often repeat, for a considerable length of time, without changing its place.—Ornithology of Cambridgeshire.

The Magpie breeds in May: the beauty of this bird has been particularly noticed by Mr. Pennant, and not without reason; but this beauty does not

consist in the decided colours of the plumage, but in the various hues and shifting tints that play upon the surface of the feathers, when disposed in different lights. The magpie does not appear to be upon the increase, the casualties of its being and its wary cunning being pretty equally balanced. A suspicious bird, he avoids the sportsman and his gun, builds his nest with great care, and secures it by a canopy of thorns from the depredations of the crow and the cuckoo, laving eight or nine eggs: this is favourable to his increase, but the size of the nest, and the situation it is placed in, subjects it to the plunder of every birds-nesting boy, and perhaps not one nest in ten escapes robbery, so that, with all his care and fruitfulness, but few nests are preserved to maturity.

The MAGPIE and her BROOD.

Once on a time a Magpie led -Her little family from home,

To teach them how to earn their bread

When she in quest of a new mate should roam. She pointed to each worm and fly

That crept on earth or winged the sky. Or, where the beetle buzzed, she called:

But all her documents were vain. They would not budge, the urchin train,

But cawed, and cried, and squalled:

They wanted to be back at nest Close nuzsled to mamma's warm breast,

. And thought, poor soul! that she should moil Day after day, to save them toil; But Madge knew better things:

'My loves,' said she, ' behold the plains, Where store of food and plenty reigns;-I was not half so big as you,

When me my honoured mother drew Forth to the groves and springs. She flew away-heaven rest her sprite:

The' I could neither read nor write, I made a shift to live; So must you too, -come, hop away, Get what you can,

The industrious always thrive.'

'Lord help us!' cry the peevish chits,

'Can babes like us live by our wits!

With perils compassed round, can we Preserve our lives and liberty? How shall we 'scape the fowler's snare. Or gard'ner's tube erect in air? If we but pilfer plum or pear, The leaden balls our flesh will tear. And then, mamma, your tender heart will bleed To see your pretty, pretty pyes lie dead.' ' My dears,' said she, and bussed their callow bills,' 'The wise by foresight intercept their ills. And you of no dull lineage came; A magpie is a bird of fame. To fire a gun it takes some time: The man must load, the man must prime, And after that take aim. He lists the piece, he winks his eye; "Twill then be time enough to fly, And out of reach may laugh and chatter: To bilk a man is no great matter.' 'Aye, but-' 'But what?' 'Why, if the clown Should reach a stone to knock us down—' ' Why, if he does, ye brats! Must be not stoop to reach the stone? His posture warns you to begone; Birds are not killed like cats.' Still, good mamma, our case is hard; The rogue, you know, may come prepared, A huge stone in his fist.' 'O ho! my youngsters,' Madge replies, ' If you already are so wise,

The pretty yellow pimpernel of the woods (Lysimachia nemorum) is a great ornament to most shady groves in this month, flowering from the end of May till September, though in the greatest perfection and brilliancy about midsummer. As the season advances, its long trailing branches hang elegantly over broken ground or mossy rocks, among little trickling rills; while its neat, shining, myrtle-like leaves are intermixed and entangled with tufted hypnums, or the smaller kinds of fern.

Go cater where you list.'

The black crow or crake-berry (Empetrum nigrum), which is a native of mountainous heaths in the northern counties, flowers in May, and ripens its

WALPOLE.

berries in August. It clothes many a thousand barren acres, either on a moorish or stony soil; and its fruit, which has a mild flavour of the elderberry, affords sustenance to ptarmigans, grouse, partridges, and even to the hardy highlander himself. Linnæus, in his Flora Lapponica, informs us, that too great a quantity of this fruit occasions the head-ache, and also that the plant bears equally well the extremest cold of the north of Sweden, and the sulphureous smoke of the copper mines of that country, in which

scarcely any other vegetable will grow.

On rubbish and in waste places the celandine often occurs, but its natural station is on chalky, and rather shady banks, which its bright flowers, gaily contrasted with the glaucous leaves, greatly enliven in the months of May and June. It is remarkable for the orange hue of its secreted fluids, which in the fig and spurge are white. According to an old Greek story, the swallows are supposed to restore the sight of their young, when blinded, with the juice of this herb. One would guess it more likely to have a contrary effect. Others have accounted for the name (from מאמע, a swallow) because it appeared and disappeared with those birds'. The writer has seen

Of sports and joys, borne on the western gale, And hear afar her sweetly warbling strain.

Once more the opening clouds shall now disclose The heaven's blue vault—the sun's all-cheering ray: The vales, once more, in tender green repose, The violet wake beneath the breath of May.

O happy bird! how playful and how light Thy circling pinions skim the upward air; Exulting, gay, and playful in thy flight, Companion of the Summer season fair!

Yet, while I welcome thee, and wish thee long, I sigh to think that ere the Autumn fade. Thou'lt seek, in other climes, a vernal song, More gentle gales and renovated shade.

To the SWALLOW. O happy bird! thy gay return I hail; For now I see young Spring, with all her train

double variety in flower in the garden of T. White, Esq., Woodlands, Durham; and the single species is very common in the county of Nottingham: he has observed it also growing wild near the paper ntills, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, and has seen it apparently growing without cultivation in the Jardin du Roi, at Paris: the juice will, if perseveringly applied, remove warts.

The broom, which is the glory of Northumberland, flowers in May. It generally grows with the farze, gorse, or whin, as that shrub is indiscriminately called. Broom is an evergreen, and is a strong bushy shrub; its flowers, before they are expanded, are tinged with a dark red, or bronze colour. The dwarf

broom dies down in the winter.

The sweet woodroof, woodruff, or wodderowffe, (Asperula odorata) flowers in May. gathered, its flowers are of a beautiful snowy whiteness; and when magnified, appear sprinkled with shiping, frosted particles. Woodruff is found on sheltered banks, and at the roots of trees. It may be transplanted into gardens, at the roots of trees, so as to surround them. Its height is from five to ten inches: it generally grows with the wood sorrel; it is usually a month, and in a severe blighting spring it has been six weeks later in putting forth its whirl of delicate flowers than the wood-sorrel. Withering, in his Botanical Arrangements, thus characterises this aromatic plant: 'The fresh herb has no scent; but, as soon as it begins to dry, it exhales a pleasant and lasting fragrance, like that of new hay: its strongly aromatic flowers, infused in water, far excel all the teas imported from China.' The dried leaves of this

Ev'n now I see thee on the light clouds soar,
And melt in distant æther from my view;
As laughing Summer, to the western shore,
Over the seas Biscayan you pursue.

Thy policy to us, ah! dost thou lend?
Flies thus, with gay prosperity—the friend?

MRS. RADCLIFFE.

plant give to snuff all the scent of the tonquin bean,

and its aroma is more lasting.

While discoursing of field-flowers, we must not omit to refer to the pleasures afforded by the garden in this month, with its bowers and grottos; and if Caroline attend us in our walks, we would recite to her a poem which bears her name, penned by Mr. CAMPBELL, Author of the Pleasures of Hope.

CAROLINE; A POEM1.

I'll bid the hyacinth to blow, I'll teach my grotto green to be, And sing my Arno-love below The holly-bower and myrtle tree.

There, all his wild-wood scents to bring,
The sweet south wind shall wander by,
And with the music of his wing
Delight my rustling canopy!
Come to my close and clust'ring bower,
Thou spirit of a milder clime,

Thou spirit of a milder clime, Fresh with the dews of fruit and flower, Of mountain-heath, and meory thyme.

With all thy rural echoes come, Sweet comrade of the rosy day, Wasting the wild bee's gentle hum, Or cuckoo's plaintive roundelay.

Where'er thy morning breath has played, Whatever isles of ocean fanned, Come to my blossom-woven shade, Thou wand'ring hind of fairy-land!

For sure, from some enchanted isle, Where heav'n and love their subbath hold, Where pure and happy spirits amile, Of beauty's fairest, brightest mould;

From some green Eden of the deep, Where pleasure's sigh alone is heard, Where tears of rapture lovers weep, Endeared, undoubting, undeceived;

This beautiful effusion appeared in the Edinburgh Magazine for 1801, and has not, we believe, been reprinted in any other work since that period. See p. 146 of our volume for the other part of it.

From some sweet paradise afar,
Thy music wanders, distant, lost—
Where Nature lights her leading star,
And love is never, never crossed!
Oh, gentle gale of Eden bow'rs,
If back thy rosy feet should roam,
To revel with the cloudless hours,
In Nature's more propitious home,
Name to thy loved Elysian groves,
That o'er enchanted spirits twine,
A fairer form than cherub loves,
And let the name be Caroling!

The insect tribe continue to add to their numbers. A few butterflies that have passed the inclement season in the chrysalis state, are seen on the wing early in May. And about the latter end of the month, the Papilio Machaon, or swallow-tailed butterfly, one of the most superb of the British insects, makes its

appearance.

Field crickets, the chaffer or may-bug, and the forest fly, which so much annoys horses and cattle. are now seen. The female wasp appears at the latter end of the month, and the swarming of bees takes place. These industrious insects require some attention during gleams of sun-shine, between the hours of ten and three. Usually, the hives give some indication of their swarming, which should not be neglected. The old proverb says, 'a swarm in May is worth a load of hay.' If the loss of a swarm. however, was the loss of a crown in the sixteenth century, it appears that bees were then of greater proportional value than at present. Few swarms will fetch more than 15s. at this time; yet in every point of view they are a productive stock to a poor man, because they cost nothing but a little care and The custom of entertaining bees with the trouble. rough music of the key, the warming-pan, or the fireshovel, in order to make them settle, has probably little effect; except as far as it ascertains property. by giving notice to the neighbours that a swarm is in the air, which may be claimed wherever it alights.

Bees in Mexico.—The following curious and interesting account is given in a recent book of travels:

'The bees, the honey-comb, and the hive, differ exsentially from those in England. The hive is generally made out of a log of wood from two to three feet long, and eight or ten inches in diameter, hellowed out and clused at the ends by circular doors, comented closely to the wood, but capable of being removed at pleasure. Some people, instead of the clumsy apparatus of wood, have a cylindrical hive, made of earthen-ware, and relieved with raised figures and circular rings, so as to form rather handsome ornaments in the varandah of a house, where they are suspended by cords from the roof, in the same manner that the wooden ones in the villages are hung to the eaves of the cottages. On one side of the hive, halfway between the ends, is a small hole, just large enough for a loaded bee to enter, and shaded by a projection to prevent the rain from trickling in. In this hole, generally representing the mouth of a man or some monster, the head of which is moulded in the clay of the hive, a bee is constantly stationed, whose office is no sinecure, for the hole is so small, he has to draw back every time a bee wishes to enter or to leave the hive. A gentleman told me that an experiment had been made by marking the sentinel, when it was observed that the same bee continued at his post a whole day.

When it is ascertained by the weight that the hive is fall, the end pieces are removed, and the honey withdrawn. The hive we saw opened was only partly filled, which enabled us to see the economy of the interior to more advantage. The honey is not contained in the clegant hexagonal cells of our hives, but in wax bags, not quite so large as an egg. These bags or bladders are hung round the sides of the hives, and appear about half full, the quantity being probably just as great as the strength of the wax will

hear without tearing. Those near the bottom, being hetter supported, are more filled than the upper ones. In the centre of the lower part of the hive we observed an irregular shaped mass of comb, furnished with cells like those of our bees, all containing young ones, in such an advanced state, that, when we broke the comb and let them out, they flew merrily away. During this examination of the hive, the comb and the honey were taken out, and the bees disturbed in every way, but they never stung us, though our faces and hands were covered with them. The honey gave out a rich aromatic perfume, and tasted differently from ours, but possessed an agreeable flavour.'—Hall's South America, vol. ii, p. 224.

Towards the end of the month, the *Phalæna humuli*, called by some the *ghost-moth*, makes its appearance, and continues visible during the greater part of the month of June. The female glow-worm is now seen on dry banks, about woods, pastures,

and hedgeways.

In this and the two following months, some of our largest beetles may be taken.

'Some of the finest coleopterous insects reside in decomposed vegetable substances, as tan-beds, the decayed roots of trees, and the refuse of gardens. Boleti, fungi, dry rotten trees, and detached bark, must never be passed over by the collector: insects may frequently be detected, at several inches from the surface, in rotten trees, and may be procured by means of the diager: this is also the method of obtaining the caterpillars of the woods feeding insects. Trunks of trees in woods and forests must be examined with care, especially in the evening and early in the morning, as it is common for the night-flying species to crawl up those places for the purpose of drying their wings or seeking their mates: they will also occasionally be found, apparently asleep. during the day, whilst numbers will be seen sporting in the noontide sun, alighting at intervals to feed on certain juices that may exude from the trunks of trees. The moss also at the foot of trees affords shelter, during the winter or rainy season, to many insects; which may be obtained by collecting the moss, and shaking it over a cloth or a sheet of white paper: others secrete themselves, at this period, a few inches Beneath the surface of the earth, near the trunks of trees. Bestles that inhabit the

foliage of trees or shrubs may be obtained by kelding the folding net, or placing a sheet beneath the branches, beating them with a long stick; by which means the insects are disturbed, fall into the net or cloth, and are easily captured; this mode of collecting is most successfully pursued early in the morning, or before a shower of rain, as, during the heat of the day, the insects are, for the most part, on the wing, occasionally alighting on the blossoms of trees and shrubs, and particularly on flowers of the umbeliate kind. There are many species of this order that may be taken crawling in pathways, road-sides, and hedge-rows, also on the stalks of grass and plants of a low growth: others will be seen flying in the evening, in clouds, around the summits of the highest trees; while many may be detected by the light which they emit. The roots of grass on banks with a southern aspect generally abound with small beetles and other insects'.

In Mr. Curtis's 'British Entomology,' published monthly (Plate 99), will be found a representation of the male and female of one of our largest beetles, (Dyticus dimidiatus) from Whittlesea Mere, where, with several others of the same genus, it has been taken in this and the two following months. Coombewood occasionally produces a handsome saw fly at this time (Zaræa scociata), represented at Pl. 97. This and the following month produced a moth new to Britain (Cleora cinctaria, Curtis, Pl. 88), discovered in Hampshire by J. C. Dale, Esq. Plate 51 exhibits a curious and rare insect (Platypus cylindrus), injurious to the oak and beech, as it lives under the bark of those trees.

During May, the flowers in the fields and meadows round London swarm with the Bibio hortulanus, and about the same period our streets are frequently visited by the large, heavy, and sombre-coloured B. marci, figures of which with its larva and pupa are given by Reaumur, tom. v, pl. 7. There is a beauti-

See Mr. Samouelle's new work, entitled 'Directions for Collecting and Preserving Exotic Insects and Crustacea,' with plates. At insects are now admitted, free of duty, this useful little manual will prove a valuable present to persons residing abroad, who will be enabled to supply their friends in this country with some of the choicest entomological specimens at a very trifling expense.

ful figure of B. venosus in Mr. Curtis's British Entomology (Pl. 138): it was taken by this author at Birch-wood, Kent, a few years since, in the early part of May.

We have before referred to the labours of the dairy. and recorded the praises of its milk, cream, butter, and cheese: in this happy land, the bounty of Providence is eminently displayed in the profusion of its rich pastures, and the consequent abundance of that all-nourishing fluid, milk. In other countries, however, unprovided with this advantage, nature has not been unmindful of the wants of man, and has furnished a substitute for the cow in the galactodendron or milk-tree, thus described by the scientific and indefatigable Humboldt. 'We returned (says he) from Porto Cabello to the valley of Aragua, and again stopped at the plantation of Barbula, by which the new road to Valencia is traced. We had heard several weeks before of a tree, the juice of which is nourishing milk. It is called the cow-tree; and we were assured, that the negroes of the farm, who drink plentifully of this vegetable milk, consider it as a wholesome aliment. All the milky juices of plants being acrid, bitter, and more or less poisonous, this assertion appeared to us very extraordinary; but we found by experience during our stay at Barbula, that the virtues of the palo de vaca had not been exagge-This fine tree rises like the broad-leaved star apple (Chrysophillum cainito). Its oblong and pointed leaves, tough and alternate, are marked by lateral ribs, prominent at the lower surface, and parallel. They are some of them ten inches long. We did not see the flower: the fruit is somewhat fleshy, and contains one or sometimes two nuts. When incisions are made in the trunk of the cow-tree, it yields abundance of a glutinous milk, tolerably thick, destitute of all acrimony, and of an agreeable and balmy smell. It was

offered to us in the shell of the tutume or calchash tree. We drank considerable quantities of it in the evening before we went to bed, and very early in the morning, without feeling the least injurious effect. The viscosity of this milk alone renders it a little disagreeable. The negroes and the free people who work in the plantations drink it, dipping into it their bread of maize or cassava. The major domo of the farm told me that the negroes grow sensibly fatter during the season when the palo de vaca furnishes them with most milk. This juice, exposed to the air, presents at its surface, perhaps in consequence of the absorption of the atmospheric oxygen, membranes of a strongly animalized substance, yellowish, stringy, and resembling a cheesy substance. These membranes, separated from the rest of the more aqueous liquid, are elastic almost like caoutchouc, but they undergo in time the same phenomena of putrefaction as gelatine. The people call the coagulum that separates from the air, cheese. This coagulum grows sour in the space of five or six days, as I observed in the small portions which I carried to Nueva Valencia. The milk, contained in a stopped vial, had deposited a little coagulum; and far from becoming fetid, it exhaled constantly a balsamic odour. The fresh juice mixed with cold water was scarcely coagulated at all; but on the contact of nitric acid the separation of the viscous membranes took place. At Caucagua, the natives call the tree that furnishes this nourishing juice the milk tree (arbol de leche),'

Scotian Botany for May.

In May the fields, 'full of fresh verdure and unnumbered flowers, spread unbounded beauty to the roving eye.' During this month the plants in flower are much more numerous than in the preceding, but our limits only allow the mention of a very few. The following are some of our native trees, which are at present decorated with their flowers, namely, Pinus sylvestris (Scotch fir), Carpinus betulus (hornbeam), Besula alba and nama (the common

and the dwarf birch), and the Fagus sylvatics (the beech tree). The fir is a diæceous tree with many stamens, and belongs to the natural order Conifera. In our Highlands it constitutes many large natural forests, and perhaps its wood is applied to more general use than any other which we possess. By the cabinetmaker it is employed for numberless purposes, and when talt and straight it is sometimes formed into masts for vessels. By making incisions into its bark, pitch and turpentines are procured. In times of scarcity its inner back has been employed as a substitute for bread, and its outer bark has been used in medicine and for fanning leather. The hornbeam belongs to the same Linnscan class as the former, and to the natural order Corylecea: its wood is hard, and occasionally used by the turner, and its inner bark is said to afford a vellow dve. Both species of birch occur in abundance in the Highlands: the wood of B. alba is employed for innumerable purposes, but the B. nana being exceedingly dwarfish, is comparatively of little value. The beech tree is also dimceous, and belongs to the natural order Salicinic. Its seeds are eaten greedily by swine, and are said to yield a good oil for lamps: its wood is much employed by turners, wheelwrights, &c.

The Prunus paduus, cerasus, and domestica, the bird-cherry. wild-cherry, and wild plum tree, adorn our woods and hedges with their elegant flowers, together with the Pyrus malus and aucuparia, the crab-apple, and the mountain ash or rowan tree, of many superstitious virtues. The common ash (Fraxinus excelsior), and Quercus robur, the common British cak, begin also to put forth their flowers. The ash is one of our noblest trees, and is employed by the cooper and wheelwright, and the oak forms many extensive natural forests in our island. It is remarkable for its slow growth, its size and longevity; its wood is highly valuable, and its bark is used in the arts of dyeing and tanning. In medicine, its decoction has been long employed in hæmorrhage, and even attempts have been made to supersede, by its internal use, the more expensive Peruvian bark. In warm countries it is infested with a small insect (Cynips quercus-folia), which punctures the young leaves, and deposits its eggs in them; these are soon inclosed by a tuberous excrescence, and the little insect, when it arrives at maturity, eats its way out of its prison. These excrescences, or gall-nuts as they are called, are exceedingly astringent, and much employed in the arts of dyeing and inkmaking. Their infusion, or decoction, is often used as a gargle, and the powder of galls, when mixed with cerate, forms a very useful ointment in hamorrhoidal affections.

On some of our heathy hills the Juniperis communis (common juniper) is to be found in abundance. This well-known evergreen shrub is disceous. Its flowers are small, green, and grow in the circle of the leaves. In our country its berries are biennial; they are green the first year, and the second, when ripe, they ac-

quine a bluish-black colour; they have a strong but not disagreeable smell, and a pungent, sweetish taste. In medicine they are used as a diuretic and stimulant, and their essential oil, when mixed with spirits, gives to hollands its peculiar flavour. The whole plant is fragrant. Its wood is reddish and hard, and in warm countries exudes a poculiar resin called sanderac, which is much used as a varnish. Grouse and other birds feed greedily apon its fruit, but its seeds being furnished with a hard, ligneous indigestible envelope, are voided uninjured, and their germination in the soil in which they are dropped is promoted by the dung which surrounds them. Several other seeds are disseminated in the same manner. Thus the fondness of some birds for fruit, and the indigestible covering which many of the seeds of these fruits possess, become the means of transporting the plants

from one region of the globe to another.

The flowers of the bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus), great bilberry (V. uliginosum), and the red whortle-berry (V. vitis idea), are now observed. Their berries are all used as food, and those of the cranberry (V. oxycoccos), which begin to flower towards the end of the month, are much esteemed for conserves, tarts, &c. More rarely than the former, the crake-berry (Empetrum zigrum), the Arbutus alpina, and Uva ursi, the black-berried mountain arbutus, and the bear-berry, are to be seen; the first delights in dry rocky soils, is a small procumbent plant, and is sometimes used to dye yarn of a brown colour. The flowers of the A. alpina are of a rose colour, and its berries are black. the A. we was the flowers are also of a reddish hue, and grow in clusters at the extremity of its stem. Its berries are red, and like the two preceding are eaten by grouse, &c. It is a procumbent shrub, with alternate oval leaves, which are possessed of considerable astringency.

On most of our hills, at this time, the Saxifraga oppositifolia, and hypnoides, the purple mountain saxifrage, and the hypnoid saxifrage, are abundant, The woods are decorated with the blue flowers of the common bugle (Ajuga reptans), the wild hyacinth or harebell (Hyacinthus non scriptus), and the vernal squill (Scilla verna). The common cowslip (Primula veris), and the lily of the valley (Convallaria majalis), lend their aid to adorn and perfume our umbrageous walks. On the river banks the marsh marigold (Caltha palustris), some species of Ranunculus, crowfoot, and the white flowering scurvy-grass (Cochlearia officinalis), are to be found in great abundance. Some of our moist meadows are now scented with the sweet gale, or Dutch myrtle (Myrica gale): this little disceous shrub diffuses an odour which much resembles that of the myrtle. Its infusion has been esteemed as a vermifuge for children; it has also been used as a substitute for hops in brewing, and like an exotic species, M. cerifera, its catkins when boiled are said to yield a species of wax, capable of being employed for domestic purposes. The red champion and meadow lychnis (Lychnis dicica and Ries cuentis) are every where abundant; the flowers of the first species are generally of a bright red or pale rose colour; they are, however, sometimes met with of a pure white, and in that case diffuse a very agreeable odour, especially in the evening. In the cornfields the Sinspis arresus; (wild mustard, or charlock) coords in too great quantities, but it greatly enlivens the appearance of the country, by the bright contrast of its yellow flowers with the verdant blade which surrounds it. By some the whole plant is boiled and eaten as greens; but, at the present day, it is very seldom used in this manner.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

Map.

The Thermometer ranges this month in the shade, upon an average, from 78 in the morning to 94 in the afternoon, Fahrenheit. On the 20th day, sun rises

at Calcutta 5 h. 24 m.; sets 6 h. 36 m.

The weather now becomes oppressive; the wind continues southerly, and the heat is the most intolerable of any month throughout the year; it is also a painful one, particularly to those who, from local or any other circumstances, are obliged to be much out of doors or exposed to the sun without a covering. which is extremely dangerous at any hour from ten to five o'clock; and it would be almost fatal to any constitution except that of the natives, who are inured to the climate by birth and habit; yet even they are sometimes struck dead by the powerful influence of the sun, more especially palankeen-bearers, several instances of this description occurring annually. The season is however sometimes refreshed by gentle showers; but this is by no means common, nor to be expected. In 1812, 13 and 14, the month of May was pretty dry, and the heat intolerable; in 1815, there were frequent and copious showers of rain; in 1816. from the beginning of the year up to the early part of July, there were not above three slight showers, although the rainy season is always expected. and seldom fails to set in between the 8th and 28th of June. The year 1817 was very irregular in this respect, as the rains set in about the middle of February, and continued with more or less intensity till the middle of September, from which period up to the 18th of October the season was uncommonly oppressive, and the concluding showers fell from midnight on the 17th to midnight on the 18th of the same month. On Sunday, May the 18th, 1817, the thermometer at 2 p.m., placed in the centre of a large hall, rose to the unusual height of 106 degrees, and several people partially fost their hearing from a too free indulgence of the punkah.

Mangoes and mangoe-fish are in great perfection in this month. Grapes of the largest size, peaches, pineapples, rose-apples, leechees, jumbrules, wampees, together with water-melons, musk-melons, pomegranates, &c. are in season, and in high perfection. Meats become indifferent; fish much the same as last month, except the becktee, which is scarce, on account of the hot weather rendering it hardly possible that it should come to market in a firm state. Asparagus, potatoes, and cabbage-sprouts, are the

only vegetable snow in the market.

JUAC.

JUNE takes its name from Juno; Mercury was its tutelar deity. The sign of this month is Cancer.

Remarkable Bays

In JUNE 1827.

1.—NICOMEDE.

NICOMEDE was a Christian of some distinction at Rome. He was a man of most active benevolence, but was scourged to death in the second persecution under Domitian,

3.—WHIT-SUNDAY.

Whit-Sunday takes place of the Pentecostal feast among the Jews, and is in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, &c. on the day of Pentecost (Acts ii). It is held seven weeks after Easter, and has probably been continued regularly from the apostolic age (Acts xvi).

*3. 1826.—WILLIAM HAMILTON REID DIED.

There is perhaps no subject which excites a more lively intorest in the human mind, than the detail of the efforts made by unaided genius to surmount those obstacles which may have been opposed to its developement. In few instances, if in any, have these efforts of nature been so purely spontaneous, so little excited by friends, or assisted by circumstances, as in the case of the subject of the present memoir. He was the son of persons occupying no higher station than domestics in the Duke of Hamilton's family. In his early childhood he lost his father; and his mother, after struggling a few years with poverty, sunk to the grave, and left her only child an unprotected orphan. He had previously, through the Duke of Hamilton's interest, been placed in St. James's parochial school; and here, under the discipline of a merciless pedagogue, he received the first rudiments of educa-His favourite amusement was repairing to the different churches, to admire their internal and external distinctions, and he received many severe floggings from his schoolmaster, in consequence of thus absenting himself.

After the death of his mother, he was humanely taken charge of by one of the parish-officers, and treated by him with paternal kindness. This gentleman struck perhaps, by his superiority of

appearance to the other boys of his rank, for

Our Edwin was no vulgar boy,

took him home, and declared his intention of bringing him up to assist him in his counting-house; but a female servant, whose anger he excited by ridiculing her deformed lover, found means to blight his prospects; and in the end, by lies and artful insinua-

tions, procured his dismissal.

He was subsequently apprenticed to a silver buckle-maker near Soho, and from that period he commenced his literary studies. All his pocket-money was expended in books, and, after a long day of severe labour, half the short period allotted for his repose was frequently spent in reading, particularly history and poetry. Mr. Law's writings fell in his way, and he was long bewildered in the labyrinths of mystical divinity.

After the expiration of his apprenticeship, he supported himself by working at his trade, occasionally writing various poetic trifles, which, by the advice of some friends who discerned their merit, he sent for insertion to the papers and magazines of the These productions were mostly of a pensive cast, full of a plaintive sweetness, though some were of a humorous description. They attracted the attention of several literary characters. whose letters attest their opinion of the anthor; and a literary lady of no mean rank, in her letters recently edited by Sir Walter Scott, speaks of him by name as the child of Nature and unaided Thus receiving praise, and in some instances pecusiary remuneration, he was encouraged in his literary career. He mext turned his attention to the acquirement of the French language, and, from the peculiar construction of his mind, was rabidly successful. About this period he undertook to supply various light articles to a daily paper. He quitted his trade, which, from the change of fashion, was no longer productive; and from this time till the end of his life, he supported himself respectably by the labours of his pen. Having procured an engagement as French translator to a daily paper, he successively mastered the Italian, Spanish, and German tongues, without receiving a single lesson or assistance of any kind, except from books. He now extended his engagement to the translation of the whole of these languages, and in a very short time the Portuguese was added. This employment necessarily confined him at home to await the arrival of the different mails. To fill up these intervals of leisure, he commenced the study of the learned languages; the Greek and Hebrew he read, so as to consult any author he wished to examine, and the Latin he could read and translate with accu-

The speedy acquisition of a knowledge of languages appeared to be a natural gift. The mode he adopted was that recommended by Mr. Locke, and which is indeed the path marked out by Nature. He first attained a knowledge of the primary words, and then by means of a New Testament, or any easy and literal translation, acquired the particles; and thus, having gained some insight into the construction of the language, ended with the grammar, the acquisition of which was now comparatively easy. Nor did he, till the day of his death, totally cease from adding occasionally to his vast store of learning; only a short time since he was busily engaged in an examination of the Northern dialects. When the Post-office refused to supply the newspapers with the foreign journals, except in their own translations, he was consequently deprived of his employment. He soon afterwards proposed to publish a volume of poems by subscription; they were accordingly collected, but owing to different circumstances they did not appear, and they still remain in the hands of his widow.

He, however, now produced his first proce volume, entitled, 'The Rise and Dissolution of the Infidel Societies,' which, if it did not possess much merit in a literary point of view, was certainly of great service to the community, by calling the attention of Government to a set of desperate onthusiasts, whose wile aim was to bring about a subversion of civil order and tranquillity. This work, and some communications which he made to Government, when shortly after engaged as editor of a daily paper, procured him the notice of Mr. Canning, and of the then Bishops of London and Durham: letters from whom now lie before the writer of this memoir. From the former gentleman he received a present of five pounds, all that, in the form of patronage, he ever received. The Bishop of London made him an offer of Ordination in the church, which his objection to subscribe to the Articles of Faith, and a strong inherent love of independence, induced him, contrary to his interest, to refuse.

He now turned his mind to the study of topography, biography, and general literature. London and its antiquities afforded him ample scope for investigation; and not a nook or corner did he leave unexplored. A great mass of information which he had thus collected, and designed to form a volume, remains in the

hands of the present writer.

In the latter end of 1810, about a year and a half after his marriage with the writer of this sketch, pecuniary losses induced him to apply to the Literary Fund, and he then received a handsome donation. His literary labours were afterwards more successful, and, though he had rather a large family, his circumstances remained comfortable till within the last year or two of his life, when various occurrences conspired to depress his spirits, and to cloud the evening of his days. He now again applied to the Literary Fund, and by that excellent institution was again relieved from difficulties that pressed heavily upon him.

Still his habitual cheerfulness, which had even extended to playfalness, returned no more; and, although he appeared in tolerable health, those about him perceived a marked difference in his manner; he, however, only complained of a cold and cough for about a week prior to his decease, the night preceding which he went to bed apparently well, having been out twice during the day. He slept uniaterruptedly till about one in the morning. About five his speech failed; and at half-past seven he calmly breathed his last, having exceeded the period of life commonly

allotted to mankind.

In his manners he was affable and unassuming, but, avoiding general society, it was only by the few who knew him intimately that his merits could be appreciated. Of the most inflexible integrity himself, he was ever indulgent towards the faults of others. Even and placid in his temper, rational in his enjoyments, and

mederate in his wishes, though never a rich man, he may be classed, if we except perhaps the last year or two of his life, among the number of happy men, and that entirely because his pleasures were those of intellect, and consequently dependent only on himself.—Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xcvi, part II, p. 185.

4.—WHIT-MONDAY.

This day and Whit-Tuesday are observed as festivals, for the same reason as Monday and Tuesday in Easter. Their religious character, however, is almost obsolete, and they are now kept as holidays, in which the lower classes still pursue their favourite diversions.—For an account of the Eton Montem, see

T. T. for 1815, p. 168.

· John of Gaunt's Benefaction.—Adjoining the public road from Bosworth to Leicester there was a meadow, occupied in portions by the inhabitants of the parish of Ratby, among whom it was a rule, when the grass was fit to cut, to assemble on a certain day for that purpose, by which means the mowing was performed at once. When the labour of the day was over, the remaining part was devoted to foot-ball. cudgel-playing, wrestling, and other athletic exercises; the night to music, singing, and dancing. happened on one of these meadow-mowings that John of Gaunt. Duke of Lancaster, who at that period kept his court at Leicester, passed this meadow on his way to the city, and, struck with the mirth and festivity which appeared to prevail among these rustics, dismounted to inquire the cause of their merriment. They informed his Grace that they had been. according to antient custom, mowing the Rame. dale, and were, now that the labour was done, amusing themselves. John of Gaunt immediately joined them, and entered with his characteristic hilarity into the spirit of their diversions, with which he was so pleased, that before he quitted them, he told them that if they would come to Leicester on a day he appointed, he would present each of them with a ewe

for their ram; also a wether, whose fleece, when sold, should annually afford them a bountiful repast.

John of Gaunt had no sooner departed, than a general consultation took place among the mowers, as to the light in which they were to consider this humorous promise: some judged, from the frolick-some manner of his joining in their sports, that it could be intended only as a joke upon them; but others, who saw no reason why such condescension should not be accompanied by a liberality equally free, determined on ascertaining the truth, by repairing to the place on the day which the Duke had named. Fifteen of the number accordingly set off for Leicester, and were much pleased to find his Grace punctual to his appointment, by whom they were informed, that under the strict performances of articles hereafter to be named, he would give to each of them a piece of land situated in the parish of Enderby, in Leicestershire, on the banks, of the river Soar, in the vicinity of an antient burying-ground, which still retained the name of St. John's churchyard. This land, containing half an acre for each man's private use, was to be called the Ewes. He also allotted another piece to be called the Boots, in the proportion of five yards wide and sixty long, for every person; and for their general use, he would bestow on them two acres of land to be called the Wether. also adjoining the river Soar, which, when swelled with rain, is said 'to wash the back of the Wether.' The grass of this land was to be sold at Enderby, every Whit-Monday, for the purpose of defraying the expense of an annual feast, to be enjoyed by the mowers on that day. The following are the articles annexed to the possession of these munificent donations of land:-

ARTICLES.—There shall be annually elected, by a majority, two persons as caterers, who shall on every Whit-Monday go to Leicester, to whatever inn they may prefer, where a calf's head shall be dressed for their breakfast, the bones of which, when picked clean, shall be put into a dish, and afterwards served up at the dinner. The innkeeper is also to provide two large rich pies, for the caterers to take home to their families, that they may be partakers of some of their festivity. Likewise there shall be provided for every person a short silk lace, tagged at both ends with silver, and, when so equipped, they shall all proceed to Enderby, and sell the grass of the Wether to the best bidder. From thence they shall go to the meadow, and all dismounting, each person shall take a small piece of grass from the Wether, and tie it round his tagged lace; then placing the lace in his hat, all the mowers shall remount, and ride in procession to the high cross in Leicester, and there throw their lace among the populace: from thence they must proceed in the same order to St. Mary's Church, where a sermon shall be preached for the benefit of the hospital founded by Henry Earl of Lancaster. When the service is over, a deed shall be read by the clergyman, detailing the above gift, and the church stuck with flowers. This ceremony performed, they are to return to their inn to dinner, at which the bones of the calf's head are to form one of the dishes: the day to be closed in feasting and merriment.

I remember at Oxford, (says Aubrey,) before the civill warres, the custom was, that some day of the Whitsun-holydayes, the master-cooke for that yeare, with the rest of his brethren, in silk doublets were mounted on horseback, and rode (I thinke) to Bartholomew's or Bullington Green, to fetch in the flye; the said master-cooke treated his brethren before they rode out (at Exeter College, 1642). I saws them drinke their morning's draughts: and, on Mirchaelmas Day, they rode thither again to convey the fly away. Methinks this old custom looks as if it were derived from that mentioned in Pliny.—Aubrey MS., A.D. 1686.

At Eton School about Whitsuntide I think (observes Mr. Aubrey), or Holy Thursday, the schoole-boyes doe hunt a ram, till they kill him; and then they have a venison-feast made of him: they use to overheate themselves, and gett the small-pox.—Au-

brey MS., A.D 1686.

5.—SAINT BONIFACE.

Boniface was a Saxon presbyter, born in England, and at first called Wilfrid. He was murdered in

a barbarous manner by the populace near Utrecht, while preaching the Christian religion, on this day, in the year 755.

*5. 1826.—c. m. von weber died, æt. 40.

He was born Dec. 16, 1786, at Eutin, a small town in Holstein. His father gave him a most liberal education, and the son evinced an early predilection for the fine arts, particularly painting and music. The first regular instruction he received on the piano forte, the instrument on which he has gained such a high reputation as a player, was from Heuschkel, at Hildburghausen, in 1796; and it is to this severe and learned master that Weber owed his energy, distinctness, and execution. The more his father perceived the gradual developement of his talents, the more anxious he was to sacrifice every thing to their cultivation; he therefore took his son to the famous Michael Haydn, at Salzburg.

In 1798 he published his first work, six fugues in four parts, which are remarkable for their purity and correctness, and received the praise of the Musikalische Zeitung. At the end of that year, Weber went to Munich, where he was taught singing by Valesi, and composition, as well as the piano-forte, by Kal-To him he is indebted for a full knowledge of the theory of music, and for a skilful and ready use of all the means it furnishes to the composer. Weber now began to apply himself to one particular branch of the art, in preference to the rest—the operatic music. Under the eyes of his master he wrote an opera, ' Die Macht der Leibe und des Weins' (The Power of Love and Wine), a Mass, and several other pieces; but all these were subsequently destroyed.

Soon after this, Weber, in the fulness of youthful hope, entertained an idea of rivalling Sennefelder, of lithographic celebrity; and he went so far as to say that the invention was his, and that he used machines more adapted to the purpose. In order to pursue his

plan on a grand scale, he removed with his father to Frisburgh in Saxony, where the best materials were most conveniently at hand. With the tediousness of so mechanical a business, however, he was soon tired: and the young speculator resumed, with redoubled vigour, his study of composition. While only fourteen, he wrote the opera of 'Das Waldmädchin' (The Girl of the Wood), which was first performed in 1800. and received with great applause at Vienna. Prague. and St. Petersburg.

An article in the Musikalische Zeitung excited in the young composer the idea of writing in an entirely new style, and of reviving the use of the antient musical instruments. With this view he composed. in 1801, at Salzburg, the opera 'Peter Schnoll and his Neighbours.' Although it met with little success on its performance, it was highly praised by

Havdn.

During one of his many professional travels with his father, in 1802, to Leipsic, Hamburgh, and Holstein, his principal occupation was to collect and study all works on the theory of music; and entertaining doubts as to the correctness of most of them. he commenced studying harmony once more, from its very elements, with a view of constructing an entirely new system of music. His analysis of Sebastian Bach's 'Vogler, 12 Chorale,' is a work of great research and much utility.

Soon after this he was entirely left to himself in the great musical world of Vienna, in the midst of Haydn, Vogler, Stadler, &c. Instead of being drawn away from his art by the innumerable amusements of so gay a city, he was for a considerable period more deeply engaged than ever in studying with the Abbe Vogler. During all this time, only two of his works; if they merit that name, appeared in print, a set of variations, and Vogler's opera 'Samori,' arranged for the piano-forte.

Having completed his musical education at Vienna, he was called to Breslau, in the character of maestro di capella. As he had to form here an entirely new orchestra and corps of singers, he was furnished with a very favourable opportunity to improve himself in the knowledge of effect. While at Breslau he composed the opera of 'Rebezahl, or Number Nip,' of which the ill-fated mountain ghost has furnished the subject.

The commencement of the great Prussian war in 1806 obliging him to quit Breslau, he entered the service of Duke Eugene of Wurtemburg, and removed to Carlsruhe in Silesia. Here he wrote two symphonies, several concertos, and various pieces for wind instruments. He also published at this time an improved edition of his opera, 'The Maid of the Wood,' under the title of 'Silvana;' a cantata, 'Der erste

solo pieces for the piano-forte.

In 1810 he made a successful tour to Frankfort, Munich, and Berlin; and on his return, once more assisted by the experience and knowledge of Vogler (who had then two other young artists of great talent with him, Meyerbeer and Gausbacher), he composed

Ton: some overtures for a grand orchestra, and many

the opera 'Aban Hassan,' at Darmstadt.

From 1813 to 1816, Weber was the director of the opera at Prague, which he organized quite anew, and wrote here his great cantata 'Kamf und Sieg,' a most imposing composition; and a melo-drama, entitled 'Preciosa,' or the Gipsy Girl. After the object of his visit to Prague was fulfilled, he once more travelled without any permanent appointment. Though he received the most handsome offers from all parts of Germany, he did not accept of any, until he was called to Dresden, for the purpose of forming a German opera. This appointment he held until his death.

His celebrated opera of 'Der Freyschutz' was produced at Berlin, June 21, 1821; and in November

1828 his 'Euryanthe' was performed at Vienua, but did not succeed. Der Freyschutz first appeared in an English dress at the English Opera House, in the summer of 1824, when its success was such as to induce the managers of Covent Garden and Drury Lane theatres to bring it out at their respective houses in the ensuing winter. With some slight alterations in the story, and aided by the most magnificent scenery, the popularity of 'Der Freyschutz' was unequalled, and led to an invitation to its author to visit England, to compose an opera expressly for the English stage. The offer was accepted, and he fulfilled his engagement by the production of 'Oberon,' which was first performed at Covent Garden on the 12th of May in the past year.

His health was evidently much impaired previously to his arrival in England, and since his residence in this country it had gradually become worse, until the 3d of June, when his disorder, a pulmonary affection of long standing, received so sudden and violent an accession, as to preclude all hope of recovery. On the morning of Monday, June 5, he was found dead upon his pillow, his head resting upon his hand, as though he had passed from life without a struggle. The following Wednesday, June 7, had been fixed upon for an attempt to revisit his native

country.

The opera of 'Der Freyschutz,' with all the original music, was to have been performed at Covent Garden Theatre, for the benefit, and under the superintendance of the composer; but his increasing indisposition preventing his attendance, it was postponed. On the 26th of May, Weber gave a concert at the Argyll Rooms, at which he presided. Amongst other new compositions with which he delighted the audience, was a song from Lalla Rookh, composed for Miss Stephens, and which he himself accompanied on the piano-forte. The melody only of this song

had been committed to paper, the composer supplying the accompaniments from memory. Weber is understood to have left but one work in manuscript, of any importance, a production which was to be entitled 'Kunstler Laben' (Life of Artists), upon which he had been employed several years. It consists of a narrative of the principal events of his life, with observations on great musical works, and on the most eminent of antient and modern composers. He was the author of many articles in the Leipzig Musical Gazette, and also in the Alendzeitung, an evening paper of Dresden.

He has left a widow and two children. On the 21st of June his remains were interred with great solemnity in the Roman Catholic Chapel in Moorfields, most of the distinguished characters in the theatrical and musical world attending as mourners. At the close of the funeral service, Mozart's requiem was

sung by the whole choir.

6, 8, 9.—EMBER DAYS. See p. 62.

10.—TRINITY SUNDAY.

The observation of this festival was first appointed by the council of Arles in 1260.—See T. T. for 1820, p. 135; and 'The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity briefly stated and defended,' second edition, by the Rev. T. H. Horne, author of an 'Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures;' 'Deism Refuted,' &c. &c.

HYMN to the DEITY. [By James Edmeston.]

Where can I go from THEE?
All present DEITY!

Nature and Time, and Thought, Thine impress bear;
Through Earth, or Sea, or Sky,
Though far!—afar!—I fly,

I turn, and find Thee present with me there.

The perfume of the rose,
And every flower that blows,
All mark Thy love, in clusters of the vale;
The corn that crowns the fields,
The fruits the garden yields,
Proclaim the bounties that can never fail.

The vapour and the cloud,
The thunder bursting loud,
Speak of thy majesty in words of flame;
The Ocean as it roars,
Lashing the rocks and shores,
Declares from what a mighty hand it came.

The vasty globes that roll,
Each on its own firm pole,
Through all the boundless fields of space alone,
Prove that, indeed, Thou art
The life-wheel and the heart
Of systems, to our little world unknown.

From THEE I cannot fly;
Thine all-observing eye
Marks the minutest atom of Thy reign;
How far soe'er I go,
Thou all my path would'st know,
And bring the wanderer to this earth again.

But why should I depart?
"Tis safety where Thou art;
And could one spot alone Thy Being hold,
I, poor and vain, and weak,
That sacred spot would seek,
And dwell within the shelter of Thy fold!

In the Aubrey MS., so often quoted in our last volume, we have the following account of a curious custom at *Newnton*, in North Wilts, on *Trinity Sunday*.

King Athelstan having obtained over the Danes, by the assistance of the inhabitants of this place, riding to recreate himself, found a woman bayting a cowe, upon the way called the Fosseway, which is a famous way, and runnes through this parish, and goes to Scotland. This woman sate on a stoole with the cowe fastened by a rope to each legge of the stoole. The manner of it occasioned the king to ask, why she did soe; she answered the king, that they had no common belonging to the towne: the queen being then in his company, by their consents it was granted, that the towne should have so much ground in common

next adjoying to this way, as the woman would ride round upon a bare-ridged horse: she undertakes it, and for ascertaining the ground, the king appointed Sir Watter, a knight that wayted on him, to follow the woman or goe with her; which being done, and made known to the monks at Malmesbury, (they to show their liberality upon the extent of the king's charity) gave a piece of ground, parcel of their inheritance and adjoyning to the church-yard, to build a house upon, for the Hayward to live in, to looke after the beasts that fed upon this common. And for to perpetuate the memory of it, appointed the following prayers to be sayd, upon every Trinity-Sunday in that house, with the ceremony ensuing: and because a monke of that time, out of his devotion, gave a bell to be rung here at this hour, before prayers begun, his name was inserted in his petitions for that guift.

The Ceremonies.

The parishioners being come to the dore of the Hayward's house; the dore was struck thrice, in honour of the Holy Trinity; then they entred: the bell was rung: after which, silence being, their prayers were sayd. Then was a garland of flowers made upon a hoop, brought forth by a mayd of the towne, upon he neck: and a young man, a batchelour, of another parish, first saluted her three times, in honour of the Holy Trinity, in respect of God the Father. Then she putts the garland upon his neck, and kisses him 3 times in bonour of the Trinity, particularly God the Sonne: then he putts the garland on her neck again, and kisses her 3 times, and particularly in bonour of God the Holy Ghost; then he takes the garland from her neck again, and by the custome, must give her a penny at least, which (as fancy leades) is now exceeded, as 2s. 6d. &c.

The method of giving this garland is from house to house

annually, till it comes round.

In the evening, every commoner sends his supper up to this house, which is called the **Calletisage**; and having before layd in there equally a stock of mault, which was brewed in the house, they suppe together, and what was left was given to the poor.

The Forme of Prayer.

'Peace, goodmen, peace: this is the house of charitie, and house of peace: Christ Jhesus be with us this day, and evermore. Amen.

'You shall pray for the good prosperity of our soveraigne, Lord King Henry VIII. and his royal issue, with all the nobility of this land, that Almighty God would give them such grace, wisdome, and discretion, that they may doe all things to the glory of God, its king's honour, and the good of the kingdome.

'You shall pray to God, that moved the hearts of King Athelstan, and Dame Mawd his good queen, to give this ground to our

forefathers and to us, and to all them that shall come after us in

You shall pray to God for the sowle of Sir Walter, the good black knight, that moved his heart to our forefathers and us, this ground to tread and tite, and to them that shall [come] after us in fee for ever.

'You shall pray to God for the sowle of Abbot Loringe, that moved his heart to give this ground to build this house upon, to our forefathers, and to us, and to them that shall come after us, in fee for ever.

'You shall pray to God for the sowle of Dan Alured, the black monk, that moved his heart to give the bell' to this house.

• For the sowles of those benefactors whom the Lord hath moved their hearts to bestow these benefits upon us, let us now

and ever pray, Pater noster, &c.

'In the late warres, this howse was burned down by the soldiers; and the custome of supping is yet [1686] discontinued, together with brewing that quantity of drinke. The rest of the ceremonies are yet continued in the Toft, and on the old dore of the howse, which yet remaines, which they doe then carry thither, and a small quantity of drinke of 6 or 8 gallons is yet dranke after the garland is given.—Mem. About 1660, one was killed, striving to take away the garland, and the killer tryed for his life at Salisbury.'

The old method of expressing the Trinity (observes Mr. Aubrey) by way of painting or carving was thus: A venerable old man sitting in a chaire, with a severe aspect, wrinkled forehead, circumflext eie-brows, great white curled beard; out of his stomach issued a crucifix, over which was the dove. I have seen many of these before the rage and zeale of the civil warre, particularly in glasse, in the east windowe of the library of New College, Oxon.—The windowes of St. Edmund's Church at Sarum were of excellent worke; and * * * offered some hundreds of pounds (I think £500) for the east window there; which, about A°. 1631 or 1632, Mr. Sherville, then recorder there, broke, upon the account of the express ing God the Father as aforesayd, and doeing of it,

^{, *} This bell is now [1686] at Mr. Richard Estcourt's house in this Parish.—Autrey MS.

broke his leg: for he was fain to clammer on a pew to reach high enough with his stick. For this fact, he was brought into the Starre-chamber. Mr. Attorney Noy was his intimate acquaintance, and did him all the service that he was able: notwithstanding which, the of the court run so high, and Archbishop Laud was so violent against him, that he was ruine by the fine. Edward, Earle of Dorset, who had a great mastership in extemporary oration, had the boldness to cope with the archbishop, and replied to him concerning his justifying of the picture, by that in Daniel of Ancient of Daies, &c.—Aubrey MS., A.D. 1686.

Some further remarks on painted glass windows in churches, by the same entertaining antiquary, may prove agreeable to our readers. Sir William Dugdale told me, he observes, that the art of paintinge in glasse came first into England in King John's time. The curious oriental reds, yellows, blew, and green in glasse-painting (especially when the sun shines). doe much refresh the spirits: after this manner did Dr. R. revive the spirits of a poor distracted gentleman: for whereas his former physitian shutt up his windowes, and kept him in utter darknesse, he did open his windowe-lids, and let in the light, and filled his windows with glasses of curious tinctures, which the distempered person would alwaies be looking on. and it did conduce to the quieting of his disturb't spirits. I remember Dr. Sanderson says, (speaking of church-musique) 'In short, whatever does tend to the quieting of the mind and contemplation, tends to devotion,'-which is contrary to the presbyterians and fanaticks.—Aubrey MS., A.D. 1636. In the margin of fol. 127 of this MS. is the following curious note by Bishop Kennett:- 'Johannes Medicus who lived and wrot in time of Ed. 2. and was physitian to that king, gives an account of his curing the prince of the small pox (a distemper but then lately known

in England) by ordering his bed, his room, and his attendants, to be all in scarlet, and imputes the cure in great measure to the vertue of the colour.—w. K.

The beautiful effect produced by painted glass in cathedrals is thus noticed by Lord Byron:—

Is he not here? He must have vanished then Through the dim Gothic glass, by pious aid Of pictured saints, upon the red and yellow Casements, through which the sun-set streams like sun-rise On long pear-coloured beards, and crimson crosses, And gilded crosiers, and crossed arms, and cowls, And helms, and twisted armour, and long swords, Ail the fantastic furniture of windows, Dim with brave knights and holy hermits, whose Likeness and fame alike rest on some panes Of crystal, which each rattling wind proclaims As frail as any other life or glory.

Again, in describing a grand revel and procession, he says,

Never have I dreamt
Of aught so beautiful. The flowers, the boughs,
The banners, and the nobles, and the knights,
The gems, the robes, the plumes, the happy faces,
The coursers, the incense, and the sun,
Streaming through the stained windows, even the tombs
Which looked so calm, and the celestial hymns,
Which seemed as if they rather came from heaven
Than mounted there. The bursting organ's peal
Rolling on high like an harmonious thunder,
The white robes and the lifted eyes; the world
At peace! and all at peace with one another!

Another poet has the following descriptive lines:—

The hooded monk, no more, in gothic aisle, Sequestered, ponders o'er his massy tome, As through the stained glass the sun-beams roam, Upon his wall, with many-coloured smile.

SAINT BARNABAS.

Saint Barnabas was descended of the tribe of Levi, and born at Cyprus. He was stoned to death by the Jews. An epistle written by him is still extant: it is published in Wake's Apostolical Fathers.

14.—corpus christi.

This festival, 'the body of Christ,' was appointed in honour of the Eucharist, and always fails on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. It is called the *Fête Dieu*, or Corpus Christi, and is one of the most remarkable festivals of the Romish Church, beginning on Trinity Sunday, and ending on the Sunday following. This day is also called the Communion; the Sacrament of Peace and Charity; the Viaticum; the Supper of our Lord; the Holy Supper; the Bread of Heaven; the Bread of Life; an Offering, Sacrifice, Liturgy, or Mass which is offered for the sins of mankind.—The ceremonies of the Fête Dieu at Bogotá, and in Peru, are described in our last vol. pp. 126-128.

In reference to this day, we copy from the Sketches of Portuguese Life, &c., the following curious account of the 'Procession of the Host,' so common in all Catholic countries. When any one, in Portugal, is so ill that his life is considered in danger, notice is sent to the curate of the parish, who repairs immediately to the sick person with the holy sacrament, which the Portuguese call Nosso Pai (our Father), owing to their conviction of the real presence of God in the consecrated wafer. Notice being likewise given to the sexton or sacristan, he rings one of the church bells in a particular manner; which being heard all over the parish, those of the brotherhood who can possibly quit their occupations, repair forthwith to the vestry room to meet the curate. Here the latter puts on his robes of white damask, embroidered with gold, or else ornamented with gold lace and fringe, and takes in his hand the holy chalice, containing a consecrated wafer; over which is thrown a silk napkin, having on it a cross of gold and bound round with gold fringe. The men of the brotherhood put on their red cloaks, and each provides himself with that which it falls to his lot to carry.

A bellman marches in front, ringing occasionally to announce the approach of the sacrament. At the head of the procession is a silver-cross bearer, supported on either side by lanthorn bearers; behind these comes the cushion and book bearer; then some of the brotherhood, carrying long wax tapers, and, sometimes lanthorns, when the wind is high; next is the priest's assistant in a black gown and white lace, and a sleeveless spencer, carrying the censer, which he continues swinging backwards and forwards to prevent the coals from going out; and last of all comes the priest himself, sheltered under a canopy of white damask and gold fringe, which is borne at the end of poles by six or eight of the Irmandade in red cloaks.

As it is a mark of devotion to accompany Nosso Pai in these visitations, numbers of persons follow the procession, vociferating Ave-Marias to a very agreeable tune. At the appearance of the sacrament, all carriages and horses stop; their riders dismount and kneel as the procession passes them; and excepting the noise made by the hymn-chaunting followers, a dead silence reigns throughout the street. The inhabitants of ground floors come out of their doors, and kneel in the street; whilst the inmates of the upper stories prostrate themselves in the windows and balconies. When the sacrament goes out at night, all the inhabitants who happen to have a light in the house illuminate their windows as a mark of devotion.

*15. 1826.—THE ORIEL GRACE-CUP SONG.

Air—The Shamrock.

Exultet mater Oriel in imis penetralibus, Nunc tempus honestissimis vacare Saturnalibus; Nunc versibus canendum est Latinis et Ionicis, Nunc audiendum vatibus, ut mihi, macaronicis;

Sing then,
All true men,
From pulpit, bar, or quorum,
FLOREAT ORIEL,
In sæcla sæculorum!

Quem mos delectet veterum, cui Oriel sit cusse, Occasioni faveat, non nobis resenturæ; Man's race is short, alas! to the coffin from the nursery; Five ages more shall pass with but one such anniversary; Sing then, &c.

The matter out, compotentials, o sociales,
To the memory and renown of our Butters and our Raleighs,
And to sages yet unborn, insignissimis virtute,
Who old Oriel shall adorn when our bones have done their duty;
Sing then, &c.

To our Noble Head, and Fellows true, let's drink a health and blessing.

Oι τυτ διχοτται πμας ευ, και καλοις διπαισσειτ; Sit placens uxor singulis, et res abunda domi; Per ora volet usque laus Edvardi atque Bromi; Sing then, &c.

Old and famous is our college, Sirs, as Romulus and Remus; A stately tree of knowledge, Sirs, from groves of Academus, Lo, once five hundred years it flowers; then, more antiquorum, We'll bask beneath its social bowers, and toast it in a jorum; Sing then, &c.

17.—SAINT ALBAN.

Saint Alban suffered martyrdom at Verulam, now St. Alban's, in 303. A splendid abbey was founded in memory of the martyr, A.D. 795, by Offa, King of the Mercians.

20.—TRANSLATION OF EDWARD, King of W. Saxons.

Edward was first buried at Wareham; but, three years afterwards, his body was removed to Shrewsbury, and there interred with great pomp.

*20. 1826.—PROCESSION OF THE DRAGON AT NORWICH.

A singular procession took place at Norwich on this day, on the occasion of the new mayor being sworn into his office'. For an account of the origin of this custom, we are indebted to RICHARD ROPER BOARDMAN, Esq. the Under-Chamberlain of Norwich. As the ceremony is connected with a company formerly existing at Norwich, called 'Saint

^{&#}x27;This ceremony takes place on the Tuesday before Midsummer-day, unless that day should happen on a Wednesday, when it is held on the Tuesday se'nnight before Midsummer-day.

George's Company,' it will be necessary to give a brief sketch of the origin of this society. Companies or fraternities in honour of SAINT GRORGE were antiently not very common in this country;—their probable rise was in the time of Edward III, just after the order of the garter was established.—See T. T. for 1815, p. 123.

A company was formed in Norwich in 1385, being a society of brethren and sisters, associated in honour of the martyr St. George, who by voluntary subscription found a chaplain to celebrate service every day in the Cathedral, for the welfare of the brethren and sisters of the Gild while living, and their souls when dead. A charter was granted to them by Henry V, in 1416, by which they were incorporated under the title of 'The Aldermen, Masters, Brethren and Sisters of the Fraternity of St. George in Norwich,' with power to choose yearly one alderman, and two masters; to clothe themselves in one livery, and yearly to hold and make one feast, to have a common seal, and to maintain a chaplain to pray daily for the health of the king, &c.

In 1451 it was agreed, that the mayor for the time being should be yearly chosen, the day after the gild, alderman for the year ensuing his discharge

from his mayoralty'.

The aldermen and common-council of the gild shall choose such men and women of the city as they think qualified to be brethren and sisters of the gild, and no one dwelling out of the city was in future to be chosen, unless he was a 'knight, squire, or some notable gentleman.'

The company so much increased, that, in the time of Henry V and VI, we find the names of the prin-

In consequence of this the Gild was recognised as part of the corporation, and was not dissolved by the statute of Edward VI, reforming such ceremonies only as were thought too superstitious.—It was ordered at the same time, 'that there shall be neyther George nor Margett, but for pastime the Dragon to come in and shew himself as in former yeres,'

cipal families in Norfolk as members, the most conspicuous of which are Sir John Fastolf; Sir Thomas Erpingham; Walter Lyhart, Bishop of Norwich; Wm. de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, &c.

The annual procession of this company took place on the 23d of April, St. George's-day, and was conducted with all the splendour that characterized the

age of chivalry.

In 1471, we find it ordered that 'every alderman (in all 24) send a priest with a cope to the procession;' the aldermen to attend in scarlet gowns and hoods, and the commoners in long gowns. The most conspicuous parts of these processions were the George and Margaret, and the *Dragon*. The St. George was mounted on a charger, caparisoned with harness of black velvet and gilt buckles, himself clothed with a 'coat armour beaten with silver, a chaplet with an owche of copper gilt, a bonnet, a pair of gauntlets, and over all a scarlet gown and blue garters'.'

The St. Margaret, or Lady of the Gild, was also mounted on a horse, whose furniture was of crimson velvet with flowers of gold; she was clothed in robes of tawny. Next, came the Dragon (or Snap, as he is called at the present day), 18 feet long and 5 feet in height, having a body of wicker-work covered with canvass, and painted to resemble scales, with red and green heightened with gold; the neck also of canvass, through which passes the pole for moving the head, to which it is affixed: the head is carved in woodthe jaws armed with iron teeth-the lower jaw hangs down, and by means of a line and pulley is brought in terrific contact with the upper one. The wings are also of carved wood: the tail is iron, of considerable length, and terminates with an ornamental scroll. The back, belly, and neck, are bristled with a fringe of red worsted.

A screen of canvass attached to the lower part of the body conceals the man who carries the figure, and

^{&#}x27;In 1556, he wore a gown of 'crymson velvet pirled with gold.'



there can be little doubt that the present 'Snap,' if

not the original, is an accurate copy of it.

The assistants in these processions were four trumpeters, with banners attached to their trumpets, having thereon the arms of St. George; four whifflers, with iron swords to clear the way; two hinchmen, or train-bearers, in white gowns; two standard-bearers carrying standards, one with St. George and the other with his arms; a sword-bearer; a club-bearer and his man.

In 1731, this Company agreed to deliver up its charters, books, and records into the hands of the Corporation, on condition of their debts being paid; this being accepted by the Corporation, the debts amounting to £236..15..1, were transferred to them, and the papers, &c. of St. George's Company were deposited

with the city records in the Gild Hall.

The principal remains of this gild is the 'Snap,' which heads the procession on the gild-day (when the mayor is sworn in), and perambulates the city on the previous day, to the no small wonder and terror of juvenile spectators: fless are the only appearances it makes in the year. The standard-bearers and whifflers still retain the fantastic costume of the age of Elizabeth, and it is remarkable that those offices have been performed by individuals of the same family through many successive generations.

The dragon is one of those shapes which fear has created to itself. They who gave it life, it seems, furnished it also with the feelings of animated nature. Gibbon, speaking of the times of the British Arthur, says, that 'Pilgrimages and the holy wars introduced into Europe the specious miracles of Arabian magic; fairies and giants, flying dragons, &c. were blended with the more simple fictions of the west.'

In the printed accounts of the churchwardens of St. Margaret, Westminster, ander the year 1491, are the following items:

Item, Received of the churchwardens of St. Sepulchre's, for the

Dragon, 2s. 8d.

Item, Paid for dressing of the *Dragon*, and packthread.....d. Ibid. p. 4. under 1502.

Ibid, p. 4, under 1502.

Item, To Michell Wosebyche, for making of viii Dragons, 6s. 8d.

Dr. Plott, in his 'History of Oxfordshire,' p. 349, mentions a custom at Burford, in that county (yet within memory), of making a dragon yearly, and carrying it up and down the town in great

jollity, on Midsummer eve, to which they added a giant.

At Dunkirk and Douay it has been an immemorial custom, on a certain holiday in the year, to build up an immense figure of basket-work and canvass, to the height of forty or fifty feet, which, when properly painted and dressed, represented a huge giant, which also contained a number of living men within it, who raised the same, and caused it to move from place to place. The popular tradition was, that this figure represented a certain Pagan giant, who used to devour the inhabitants of these places, until he was killed by the Patron Saint of the same. Have we not here a plain trace of the horrid sacrifices of Druidism, offered up to Saturn or Moloch, and of the beneficent effect of Christianity in destroying the same?—Brand's Popular Antiquities, by Ellis, 4to, vol. i, p. 255, 257 note, 259 note.

21.—LONGEST DAY.

This day is, in London, 16 h. 34 m. 5 s., allowing 9 m. 16 s. for refraction.—The longest day, equally with the shortest, affords a theme for moral reflections; and whether we take for our text the 21st of June, or the 21st of December, the shortness of life and the vanity of all earthly pursuits are equally forced upon our notice.

Floating down the current of time to the tomb, We hallow too much the flowers on its side, As the Indian does the frail, fair bloom Of the lotus that drinks of his sacred tide.

But should we part with the pearl of heaven, To treasure on earth its rifled shell? Or is aught so precious by this life given, That we bid to the other a glad farewell?

Oh, think, amid all thy flowers, how soon,
Son of Earth, the adder may cross thy way—
How quickly, amid the blaze of noon,
The cloud of the grave may eclipse thy day!

Go, taste of the banquet of this world's joys, And drink of the nectar of earthly love; But remember betimes to lift thine eyes, In the midst of them all, to the things above.

Thus, sweeter by far shall thy life bloom on,
Than their's who forget that they e'er must fall;
And over the future the past's light thrown,
Shall sign with a rainbow its cloudy pall.

And thus to thy God, without fear or crime,
Thy spirit, whenever 'tis called, will flee;
And the hand that scatters the wreath of time
Will weave one of paradise flowers for thee.

New Monthly Magazine.

To DEATH; from the German of Glück.

Methinks it were no pain to die On such an eve, when such a sky O'ercanopies the west; To gaze my fill on yon calm deep, And, like an infant, fall asleep On earth, my mother's breast.

There's peace and welcome in yon sea
Of endless blue tranquillity—
These clouds are living things;
I trace their veins of liquid gold;
I see them solemnly unfold
Their soft and fleecy wings.

These be the angels that convey
Us weary children of a day,
Life's tedious nothing o'er,
Where neither passions come, nor woes,
To vex the genius of repose
On Death's majestic shore.

No darkness there divides the sway With startling dawn and dazzling day; But gloriously serene Are the interminable plains— One fixed eternal sunset reigns O'er the wide silent scene.

I cannot doff all human fear,—
I know thy greeting is severe
To this poor shell of clay;
Yet come, O Death! thy freezing kiss
Emancipates; thy rest is bliss!—
I would I were away.

JANUS. .

As connected with the momentous subjects of life and death, some observations on longevity may not be considered to be misplaced under the head of the Longest Day.

According to M. Julia, the most salubrious places, and those in which the greatest number of persons may be cited as having attained the age of 190 or 140 years, are elevated spots, far from all marshy exhalations, and in which neither cold nor heat is ever He attributes the difference which exists between the duration of life in towns, and its duration in the country, as much to the insalubrity of the air caused in towns by the sewers, the filth, and the stagnation of dirty, narrow, and crooked streets, as to the debauched and irregular habits of the population. shows, by the result of observations made at different elevations, that the air of mountains is as pure as that of plains; and that the effluvia of marshes and of the yellow fever do not extend their influence beyond a limited height above the places in which they have been produced, which height is estimated at from 100 to 150 fathoms. Pure air is justly regarded as a powerful means of cure in many maladies, which was the opinion of the Father of Medicine, who advised his patients to go and breathe the healthy air of the island of Crete. Such is also the doctrine of the Chinese; for in China, it is said, they make a trade of filling balloons with air on the tops of high mountains, and bringing them down for the use of the inhabitants of towns.

In a curious essay, contained in a French Medical Journal, is an article which shows that a mode of life, unruffled by tumultuous passions, singularly contributes to longevity. According to the author's statement, the lives of 152 hermits, taken in all ages and under every climate, produce a sum total of 11,589 years; and consequently an average of 76 years and a little more than three months, for each. The lives of the same number of academicians, one half belonging to the Academy of Sciences, and the other half to that of Belles Lettres, amount to 10,511 years, or to 69 years and a little more than two months, for each life. It is, therefore, not improbable, that in the patriarchal ages of society 150 or 200 years were much more commonly attained than in our times, as the antients affirm of different tribes of India and Greece.

the antients affirm of different tribes of India and Greece.

24.—SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST and MIDSUMMER

DAY.

The nativity of St. John the Baptist is celebrated by the Christian church on this day, because he was the Forerunner of our blessed Lord, and, by preaching the doctrine of repentance, prepared the way for the gospel.—See T. T. for 1825, p. 160.

The feast of the Ducasse, a corruption of Dedicace, or dedication of St. John, is still celebrated at Dunkirk, and the 24th of June is the principal day of this festival. The following is an account, by an eye witness, of the ceremonies attending it in the year 1822 :--

'The weather was remarkably fine; the sun shone with unclouded splendour; all was bustle, joy, and anticipation. The civil and ecclesiastical authorities were to form a public procession. A universal holiday prevailed for all ranks and for all ages: poverty forgot its wants, and grief its sorrows, to join in, or gaze on, its pageantry. Flags, and the colours of various nations, the trophies of Dunkirk's naval prowess, were suspended across the principal street leading to the church; and some glass ornaments and coloured beads, strung very long, and hung in a circular form, appeared as the sun shone on them, like splendid chandeliers: these had been arranged in honour of the Bishop of Cambray's arrival among his flock. Five years had elapsed since the town had been so favoured.

'Many breakfasted on coffee and ducasse cake: my sister and self hastened to la grande église. Here we remained above an hour and a half, entertained by various ceremonies, such as taking on and off the mitre, presenting the crosier, and offering incense; the view not being interrupted by any of the congregation, as they were entirely excluded from the nave of the church, in the centre of which was a splendid canopy of crimson and gold, which cost ten thousand francs: it was decorated with five superb plumes of white ostrich feathers. The richly adorned altar was seen beyond it, and the bishop and clergy officiated to the left: the music and singing were delightful, The bishop having blessed the people, the procession began to leave the church; the priests in their white

lace surplices over black silk dresses, and some with white satin albas, embroidered in gold, or in flowers of various coloured silks. The bishop was distinguished by wearing the mitre, and carrying the host, which was enshrined in a superb chalice of silver, richly ornamented with precious stones. There not being a sufficient number of clergy in the neighbourhood, men were hired for the day to wear the dress, and swell the procession.

'We next proceeded to the Hotel de Flandre, where we had a good view of the procession. In about half an hour, music proclaimed the approach of the spectacle. Immediately after the band came between two and three hundred charity boys, who lined the street on each side; and little girls dressed in white, and veiled, with small baskets held between two, strewed flowers and verdure. They were followed by a great number of the images of saints, carried on altars, variously decorated, and the images gaily dressed: Saint Anne in raiment of pink and gold, and the Virgin in pale blue and silver. St. John wore a vest of brown silk with silver trimming, and was attended by a lamb. Each image was preceded by a banner. on which was painted some appropriate subject, as the Nativity, the Preaching in the Wilderness, the Lord's Supper, the Martyrdom of St. Sebastian, Purgatory. Paradise, and many others, which, like the images, are too numerous to mention. The approach of the canopy was indicated by four long white streamers, elevated high in air, each supported by two men. Six priests, bareheaded, and walking backwards, perfumed the bishop, who walked within the canopy, carrying the host, and attended by the two chief clergymen of the parish. The canopy was supported by eight strong men: the civil authorities followed, and the military closed the long parade.

'A fair invariably adds its charms and its invitations at this season; it has neither theatricals, shows, nor swings. Booths, containing articles of dress, jewellery, prints, toys, confectionary, and fruit, in a similar manner to our English fairs, are arranged in the town-house and principal streets.

MIDSUMMER FIRES.

The learned Gebelin in his 'Allegories Orientales,' accounts, in the following manner, for the custom of making fires on Midsummer eve: 'Can one,' says he, omit to mention here the St. John fires, those sacred fires kindled about midnight, on the very moment of the solstice, by the greatest as well of antient as of modern nations; a religious ceremony of the most remote antiquity, which was observed for the prosperity of states and people, and to dispel every kind of evil. The origin of this fire, which is still retained by so many nations, though enveloped in the mist of antiquity, is very simple: it was a feu de joie kindled the very moment the year began; for the first of all years, and the most antient that we know of, began at this month of June. Thence the very name of this month, junior, the youngest, which is renewed: while that of the preceding one is May, major, the antient. Thus the one was the month of young people, while the other belonged to old men.

These feux de joie were accompanied, at the same time, with vows and sacrifices for the prosperity of the people and the fruits of the earth. They danced also round this fire; (for what feast is there without a dance?) and the most active leaped over it. Each on departing took away a fire-brand, great or small, and the remains were scattered to the wind, which, at the same time that it dispersed the ashes, was thought to expel every evil. When, after a long train of years, the year ceased to commence at this solstice, still the custom of making these fires at this time was continued by force of habit, and of those superstitious ideas that are annexed to it. Besides, it would have been a sad thing to have annihilated a day of joy in times when there were not many of them. Thus

has the custom been continued and handed down to us.'—Brand's Popular Antiquities, by Ellis, 4to, vol. i,

pp. 242, 243.

In the centre of a curious French print in the possession of Mr. Douce, entitled, 'L'este le feu de la St. Jean,' Mariette exc. is a fire made of wood, piled up very regularly, and having a tree stuck in the midst of it. Young men and women are represented dancing round it, hand in hand. Herbs are stuck in their hats and caps, and garlands of the same surround their waists, or are slung across their shoulders. A boy is represented carrying a large bough of a tree. Several spectators are looking on, and the following lines are at the bottom:

Que de feux bruians dans les airs! Qu'ils font une douce harmonie! Redoublons cette melodie Par nos dances, par nos concerts'!

*25. 1826.—MRS. MATTOCKS DIED.

Mrs. Isabella Mattocks was, by birth, education. and nature, formed to be a player. Her father's name was Hallam. She was born in the year 1746, and made her first appearance at Covent Garden before she was fifteen years of age. Her first characters were the young and elegant in tragedy, comedy, and opera. But, as she advanced in life, she appeared chiefly in comedy, and then in characters of marked and broad humour, as in the chambermaids, and in elderly wives, widows, and maidens. She was a favourite with their late Majesties, and when engaged in the scene with Quick, the effect was irresistible laughter. Her Lady Tremor, in 'Such things are,' the Widow Warren, in 'The Road to Ruin,' and Miss Lucretia Mac Tab, were rich pieces of acting. Her Catharine, in 'Catharine and Petruchio,' was a masterpiece. The character of Miss Beccabunga Veronica, in the comic opera of 'The Lakers,' was

⁴ Brand's Popular Antiquities, by Ellis, 4to, vol. i, p. 949, note (m)

written on purpose for her singular manner, though the piece was never performed. She was, for many years, the general speaker of epilogues, which she gave with great effect. She quitted the stage in 1808, and spent the latter part of her life at Kensington, where she was much respected and noticed by the gentry, being invited to their evening parties, where she distinguished herself by her polished manners, and by playing a good rubber at whist. Mrs. Inchbald, who led a more secluded life, was her near neighbour, and highly valued her, and at her death left her a legacy.

29.—saint peter.

The festival in honour of this apostle was instituted in the year 813. *Hegesippus, Eusebius*, and other early historians, say that he was crucified with his head downwards.—For an account of the *Cock Mass*, as celebrated in Colombia, see our last volume, p. 159.

The following is an interesting account of the illumination of St. Peter's Church, at Rome, as lately witnessed by an English traveller:—

' It is on such occasions as the present that a fair notion of the immense magnitude of St. Peter's may be formed; for I will venture to assert that three-fourths of the inhabitants of Rome are then assembled in this vast edifice. The motion of heads, on looking down from any elevation in the church, resembles the tossing to and fro of the sea when gently agitated. At the doors, some squalid-looking wretches are bawling out and busy selling to the faithful true portraits of St. Peter and St. Paul; whilst others are shaking money-boxes, and begging for money to buy masses for the poveri animi (poor souls!) in purgatory. Pilgrims from far distant parts, armed with cockle-shell and staff, are kneeling before the splendid grand altar; whilst the toe of St. Peter (who is on duty to-day, gaudily arrayed in rich brocade, mitre, and rings) receives the kisses and homage of thousands, from the prince to the peasant. The former is preceded by his lacqueys, who wipe the toe with a white handkerchief before he kisses it. One young woman (whose smiling happy face denoted her as not of melancholic temperament) I observed actively employed in bumping the heads of some of her acquaintances against

the toe, on their stooping to kiss it,—much to the amusement of the bystanders.

'The busy hum of conversation in the cathedral is now suddenly overpowered by the simultaneous burst of four organs in various parts of it, and the full peal is accompanied by the strong chorus of the Pope's choristers, from the deep bass to the shrill musico's rich notes, much better adapted (in my humble opinion) to church singing than to the stage. The whole audience are now entranced in delight, and silent as the midnight hour, listening with eager anxiety to the beautiful and pathetic music of the Catholic church: and even after two hours have elapsed, and the final chorus is dying away in distant reverberations through the lofty aisles, it is with a feeling of regret that you find yourself pressed by the crowd towards the portico. But here is a sight to increase admiration. The whole front of St. Peter's is illuminated by large paper lanterns, giving a softened, but splendid appearance to the edifice. The different military bands play the most lovely Italian music in various parts of the great square, which is now thronged with those coming out of the church; and the stranger is preparing to depart, highly gratified by the magnificent scene, when the great bell tolls—a vivid and brilliant light is seen in different parts of the building running like wild-fire from point to point, uniting and ascending even to the highest pinnacle of the cross, till, in forty seconds, on the second toll, the whole building appears one mass of fire, and lightens the surrounding campagne for miles1. I freely own, that never in the course of my life has any circumstance so completely gratified and amazed me. It seems the supernatural work of enchantment, bursting on one's sight like some sudden and awful vision from above. There is one deep expression of wonder from the dense crowd assembled. for there is no time for more, it being in this one moment in all its glory, blazing like some giant meteor to all the world around. 'On recovering from my astonishment, I found there was a rush towards the bridge opposite the Castle of St. Angelo, to witness the girandole, or fireworks. This was a contrivance of Michael Angelo's; and, from the isolated and lofty situation of the Round Tower, the castle is admirably adapted to this species of exhibition. Suffice it to say, that the splendid imitation of Vesuvius vomiting forth its flames, the representation of waterfalls, &c., called forth repeated expressions, from some lovely Roman mouths near me, of-"O mamma mia! che bella cosa!" and the no less frequent. "Dear me, how beautiful!" from some

^{*} Four thousand lanterns and two thousand firepots are employed in this exhibition. Three hundred men (suspended by cords on the outside of the dome, &c.) simultaneously set fire to the contents of the latter, each man having about seven under his charge, which he ignites as quickly as possible, on the first sound of the great bell.



of my own fair countrywomen; and on the final rocket being sent up, I retired, like others, to my home (after taking an ice on the Corso), and congratulated myself on having seen one of the most magnificent sights it is possible to behold.—Literary Gazette.

Astronomical Occurrences

In JUNE 1827.

SUN-RISE.

MORRING awakes sublime, glad earth and sky
Smile in the splendour of the day begun;—
O'er the broad East's illumined canopy,
Shade of its Maker's majesty, the Sun
Gleams in its living light; from cloud to cloud
Streaks of all colours beautifully run,
As if before heaven's gate there hung a shroud
To hide its grand magnificence. O heaven!
Where entrance e'en to thought is disallowed;
To view the glory that this scene is giving—
What may blind reason not expect to see,
When in immortal worlds the soul is living
Eternal as its Maker, and as free
To taste the unknowns of eternity?

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Cancer at 22 m. after six in the morning of the 22d of this month. His rising and setting on certain days are specified in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

June 1st.	Sun rises	53	m. after	3.	. Seta	7	m. past	8
6th.	••••••	50	********	3		10		8
	••••••							
	••••••							

Equation of Time.

It frequently occurs, in the ordinary concerns of life, that it is required to reduce apparent into mean or true time, which is done by using the numbers as directed in the following

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Friday, June 1st, From the time by the dial subtract Wednesday 6th,		
Mondayllth.	0	55
Saturday 16th, to the time by the dial add	0	6
Thursday21st,		
Tuesday26th,	2	16

Should the correction be required for any intermediate day, or any other hour than noon, it must be found by proportion, as already explained.

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

First Quarter	2d day, at	53 m. after	8 in t	he evening
Full Moon				
Last Quarter				
New Moon	24th	9	10	

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits of the Moon will afford opportunities for observation, should the weather prove favourable at the respective times. They refer to the meridian of the Royal Observatory; viz.

June	2d.	at	0	m.	aste	r 6	in	the	evening
									•••••
									morning
									• • • • • • •
									• • • • • • •

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The following are the times of high water at London-bridge on certain days this month, and from them those for other days may readily be found.

		7	ABLE	01	TIDES.		
		Mor	ning .	_		~~	Afternoon
June 1st,	at	Ø	m. after	U		20	m. atter o
6th,	••	58		10		33	11
11th,	••	. 29	• • • •	3		47	3
21st,	• •	59	••••	11		0	0
26th,	• •	21	• • • •	8	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	36	· 3

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Venus now appears like the Moon in her last quarter, as the proportion of his phases is,

June 1st, | Illuminated part = 9.87008 | Dark part ... = 2.12992

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Of the twenty-five of these eclipses of the first and second satellites, which take place this month, only the two following will be visible here, viz.

Emersions.

First Satellite....12th day, at 8 m. 39 s. after 10 in the evening Second Satellite... 8d, 0 5 11 at night

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

June 5th, with a in Virgo, at 8 in the evening 12th, ... β in Capricorn, 1 in the afternoon 21st, ... Venus, at 7 in the evening

Other Phenomena.

Jupiter will be stationary on the 1st of this month. Mercury will be in his superior conjunction at 45 m. past 4 in the morning of the 9th. Mercury and Mars will be in conjunction at 5 in the evening of the 15th; and Mars and Saturn at 10 in the morning of the 26th. Jupiter will also be in quadrature at 45 m. after midnight of the 27th.

CHANGE of SEASONS in TROPICAL CLIMATES.

The following account of the breaking up of the fine weather at San Blas, and of the phenomena which precede the commencement of the rainy season, is very curious, and offers a striking contrast to

the mild, calm, and generally delightful weather ex-

perienced in an English June.

1st June. 1822.—This day broke with an unwonted gloom overshadowing every thing; a dense black haze rested like a high wall round the horizon, while the upper sky, so long without a single speck, was stained all over with patches of shapeless clouds flying in different directions. As the Sun rose he was attended by vapours and clouds, which concealed him from our sight. The sea-wind which used to begin gently, and then gradually increase to a pleasant breeze, came on suddenly and with great violence: so that the waves curled and broke into a white sheet of foam as far as the eye could reach. The sea looked black and stormy under the portentous influence of an immense mass of dark clouds. rising slowly in the western quarter, till they reached nearly to the zenith, where they continued suspended like a mantle during the whole day. The ships which heretofore had lain motionless on the surface of the bay, were now rolling and pitching with their cables stretched out to sea-ward; while the boats that used to skim along from the shore to the vessels at anchor. were seen splashing through the waves under a rapid sail, or struggling hard with their oars to evade the surf, breaking and roaring along the coast. The flags that were wont to be asleep by the sides of the masts, now stood stiffly out like boards. Innumerable seabirds continued during all the day wheeling round the rock on which the town stood, and screaming as if in terror at this sudden change. The dust of six months' hot weather, raised into high pyramids, was forced by the furious gusts of wind into the innermost corners of the houses. Long before sunset, it seemed as if the day had closed, owing to the darkness caused by the dust in the air, and to the sky being overcast in every part by unbroken masses of watery clouds. Presently lightning was observed amongst the hills, which was shortly afterward followed by a storm exceeding in violence any thing I ever met with. During eight hours, deluges of rain never ceased pouring down for a moment: the steep streets of the town soon became the channels of continued streams of such magnitude as to sweep away large stones; rendering it every where dangerous, and in some cases quite impossible to pass. The rain found its way through the roofs, and deluged every part of the houses: the loud rumbling noise of the torrents in the streets never ceased; the deafening loudness of the thunder which seemed to cling round the rock became distracting; while the continued flashes of the forked lightning, which played in the most brilliant manner from the zenith to the horizon on all sides, were at once beautiful and terrific. As the day broke the rain ceased; and during all the morning there was a dead calm: the air was so sultry that it was painful to breathe it; and though the sky remained overcast, the sun had power to raise up clouds of steam, which covered the whole plain as far as the base of the mountains.

No very violent rain fell after this furious burst, till the evening of the 4th of June, when the period ical wet season set in. During the mornings it was generally clear and fair; but about half-past three or four o'clock became rapidly overcast, and at five the rain began, though it was seldom before eight o'clock that it fell in torrents, or that the thunder and lightning commenced with violence.—Hall's South Ame-

rica, vol. ii, p. 317.

To this description we shall add the following

Meteorological Account of Sierra Leone, for the

Year 1793.

JANUARY.—The weather was in general close and suitry, especially in the mornings and evenings; but the heat was diminished during the middle of the day by the freshness of the sea breeze. The atmosphere was usually much obscured by haze and clouds. The N. and E. were the most prevailing winds. A tornado was experienced on the 8d, and much heavy rain fell on the morning.

of the 4th. There was also much thunder and lightning on the 8th, and that day with the 11th, 12th, 16th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st,

were remarkably foggy.

February.—The temperature of the air, though little different in absolute heat from that of the preceding month, was rendered more agreeable to the feelings, by the fresh breezes which prevailed during the greater part of this month. The 1st, 13th, 14th, 21st, 22d, and 28th, were very foggy days. On the 13th, 22d, and 23d, there were slight showers; and a smart tornado occurred on the night of the 21st. The most prevailing winds were the N. and W.

Marcu.—Notwithstanding the thermometer for the greater part of this month ranged high, the temperature was not unpleasant; as the sea and land breezes were generally fresh, and succeeded each other with great regularity. In the mornings, however, during the intervals between the land and sea breezes, it was often close and sultry, though the breeze seldom set in later than half-past eight or nine o'clock. On the 7th, a slight shower fell. On the 8th, there fell smart rain during the night. The 13th, 26th, 27th, and 31st, were attended with tornadoes. Thunder and lightning took place on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 13th, 26th, and 29th. The 13th, 14th, 20th, 29th, 30th, and 31st, were remarkably foggy; but the only entire days on which the heat felt unpleasant were the 18th and 19th.

April.—Though the range of the thermometer was high this month, the heat was in general temperate and agreeable, the mornings being usually the only part of the day which felt sultay, though this was of short continuance, as the sea-breeze generally sprung up about nine A.M. Towards evening, the breezes sometimes decreased, or settled into a calm, which made the air feel close and unpleasant. The atmosphere was frequently hazy, and often obscured with heavy clouds, as if threatening rain. On the 4th, 20th, and 24th, slight showers fell. Tornadoes also happened on the 16th and 18th, but without being followed by thunder, lightning, or rain. On the 6th, 7th, 8th, 29th, and

30th, there was thunder and lightning.

MAY.—The weather was more sultry and close during this than the preceding month, though the thermometer was not so high. The most prevailing winds were from the W. and E., but they seldom blew fresh for any length of time together. The 7th, 24th, and 29th, were attended with heavy rain; but on the 9th, 10th, 11th, 19th, 23d, and 25th, only slight showers fell. Smart showers occurred on the 16th and 21st, and tornadoes on the 8th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 25th, and 26th. There were also two tornadoes on the 13th; and that on the 19th was from the sea, a very unusual occurrence. Thunder and lightning happened during some part of the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 18th, 22d, 25th, 28th, 29th, and 31st days. The atmosphere in general was very cloudy, hazy, and overcast.

JUNE.—The temperature, during this month, was in general sultry, and often close and stifling, particularly when the sun made its appearance after a shower of rain, and when there was at the same time little wind, though the heat indicated by the thermometer was less than in May. In the last month, which might be considered as the forerunner of the rainy season, there were only eleven days of rain; in the present month there were twenty-five, of which the 2d, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th, were attended with only slight showers. On the 4th, 5th, 7th, 11th, 18th, 19th, 23d, 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th, there fell smart showers; and on the 8th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 24th, and 30th days, heavy rain. Thunder and lightning occurred during some part of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 24th, 26th, and 27th. A tornado took place on the 4th, A.M., and on the 7th, P.M. The prevailing winds were from the S. and W.; the breeze being in general fresh during the middle of the day, but it was frequently calm in the mornings. and evenings.

[To be continued.]

The Naturalist's Niary

For JUNE 1827.

—— It was the azure time of Junz,
When the skies are deep in the stainless noon,
And the warm and fitful breezes shake
The fresh green leaves of the hedge-row briar.

Welcome once more to sweet June, the month which comes

Half prankt with spring, with summer half imbrowned. Yet it is almost startling to those who regret the speed of time, and especially of those

> Who like the soil, who like the clement skies, Who like the verdant hills, and flowery plains,

to behold how far the season has advanced. But with this we must be sensibly struck, if we give a retrospective glance to the days when, in our walks, we hailed with delight the first faint announcements of a new spring, the first snatch of milder air, the first peep of green, the first flowers which dared the unsettled elements—the snowdrop, violets, primroses, and then a thousand beautiful and short-lived blooms. They are gone! The light tints of young s 2

foliage, so pure, so tender, so spiritual, are vanished. What the poet applied to the end of summer, is realized now:

It is the season when the green delight

Of leafy luxury begins to fade,

And leaves are changing hourly on the sight.

B. BARTON.

A duller and darker uniformity of green has spread over the hedges; and we behold, in the forest trees. the farewell traces of spring. They, indeed, exhibit a beautiful variety. The oak has 'spread its amber leaves out in the sunny sheen: the ash has unfolded its more cerulean drapery; the maple, beech, and sycamore are clad in most delicate vestures; and even the dark perennial firs are enlivened by young shoots and cones of lighter green. Our admiration of the foliage of trees would rise much higher, did we give it a more particular attention. The leaves of the horse-chestnut are superb. Passing through a wood we broke off one without thinking of what we were doing; but, being immediately struck with its size and beauty, we found, on trial, that it measured no less than one yard and three-quarters round, and the leaf and footstalk three quarters of a vard in length, presenting a natural hand-screen of unrivalled elegance of shape. It is now, too, that many of the forest trees put forth their blossoms. The chestnut, in the earliest period of the month, is a glorious object, laden with 'ten thousand waxen, pyramidal flowers.' Then come the less conspicuous, but yet beautiful developements of other giants of the wood. The sycamore, the maple, and the hornbeam are affluent with their pale yellow florets, quickly followed by winged seeds; the ash shows its bunches of green keys; and, lastly, the lime bursts into one proud glow of beauty, filling the warm breeze with honied sweetness, and the ear with the hum of a thousand bees,-

Pilgrims of summer, which do bow the knee Zealously at every shrinc.

The general character of June; in the happiest seasons, is fine, clear, and glowing, without reaching the intense heats of July. Its commencement is the only period of the year in which we could possibly forcet that we are in a world of perpetual change and decay. The earth is covered with flowers, and the air is saturated with their fragrance. It is true that many have vanished from our path, but they have slid away so quietly, and their places have been occupied by so many fragrant and beautiful successors, that we have been scarcely sensible of their departure. Every thing is full of life, greenness, and vigour. Families of young birds are abroad, and a busy life the parents have of it till they can peck for themselves. Rooks have deserted the rookery, and are feeding their vociferous young in every pasture and umbrageous tree. The swallow and swift are careering in clear skies. and

Ten thousand insects in the air abound,

Flitting on glancing wings that yield a summer sound.

WIFFEN.

The flower-garden is in its highest splendour. Roses of almost innumerable species (we have counted no less than fourteen in a cottage garden), lilies, jasmines, speedwells, rockets, stocks, lupines, geraniums, pinks, poppies, valerians (blue and red), mignionette, &c. &c. and the rhododendron, as bright, though less enriched by contrast than

The RHODODENDRON on the ALPS.

And is it here, that sunny flower that decks our gardens so! And can it brave the mountain storm, where the oak cannot grow? It glads me on our frozen way, amid the alpine gloom, Amid the glaciers and the snow to see its crimson bloom. We left the sunny vales below, the happy flocks and kine, The peasant in his blessed home, the laurel and the vine: We traversed then the mountain-pass, and up the rocky way, More wearily, more painfully, as nearer closed the day. We saw the moon look on the Alps that seemed to hem us round, In the cold light the glacier shone, above the avalanche frowned;

We saw the sun rise, and the east, barred with its crimson streaks, Ruddied the glaciers, and Mont Blanc glowed with its splinted peaks:

Twas not like earth,—a fairy world such splendours might unfold; Glimmered and shone, like diamond walls, the glaciered mountains cold.

The sun rose higher—the splendours died—dim clouds the mountains crowned,

And sounds of waters and of storms were rushing eddying round; Blackness was in the mountain holds, and loud the storm-winds

roared: Fiercely from icy ledge to ledge the boiling torrents poured: Anon, as by a mighty arm, the tempest-rage was staved -A moment, and the darkness hung at distance like a shade; The whirling clouds below our path like boiling waves did lie; Again the snowy splintered peaks seemed piercing the clear sky. Onward and upward still we went, a desolate, dreary way: Shepherd, nor alpine goat we saw, nor chamois through that day; We left the oak, the pine, and man below us many a steep,-And canst thou here, thou sunny flower, thy frozen station keep? Little we deemed, when at our home we cultured thee with care. To meet thee in this mountain land, amid this desert air. I thank thee that I meet thee thus, like kind words 'mid neglect-A treeless, alpine solitude by ruby blossoms decked: I'll culture thee 'neath milder skies, and in a kindlier soil. For memories thou hast waked to-day, for rest amid our toil. Bloom on, and be to pilgrims still a banner, joy unfurled, And memory of thee shall supply hope in a cheerless world.

'It is the very carnival of Nature,' and she is prodigal of her luxuries. It is luxury to walk abroad, indulging every sense with sweetness, loveliness and harmony. It is luxury to stand beneath the forest side, when all is basking and still at noon, and to see the landscape suddenly darken, the black and tumultuous clouds assemble as at a signal,—to hear the awful thunder crash upon the listening air,—and then to mark the glorious bow rise on the lucid rear of the tempest,—the sun laugh jocundly abroad, and

Every bathed leaf and blossom fair Pour out their soul to the delicious air.

It is luxury to haunt the gardens of old-fashioned cottages in the morning, when the bees are flitting

forth with a rejoicing hum: or at eve, when the honeysuckle and sweet-briar mingle their spirit with the breeze. It is luxury to plunge into the cool river; and, if ever we were tempted to turn anglers, it would be now. To steal away into a quiet valley, by a winding stream, buried, completely buried in fresh grass; the foam-like flowers of the meadow-sweet, the crimson loosestrife, and the large blue geranium nodding beside us; the dragon fly and king-fisher glancing to and fro; the trees above casting their flickering shadows on the stream, and one of our ten thousand volumes of delectable literature in our pocket; then, indeed, could we be a most patient angler,—content though we caught not a single fin. What luxurious images would there float through the mind! Gray could form no idea of heaven superior to lying on a sofa and reading novels; but it is in the flowery lap of June that we can best climb

Up to the sunshine of uncumbered ease.

How delicious, too, are the evenings become. The damps and frosts of spring are past. The earth is The night air is balmy and refreshing. The glow-worm has lit her lamp. Go forth when the business of the day is over, thou who art pent in city toils, and stroll through the newly shot corn, along the grassy and hay-scented fields. Linger beside the solitary woodland. The gale of evening is stirring its mighty and umbrageous branches. The wild rose, with its flowers of most delicate odour, and of every tint, from the deepest blush to the purest pearl; the wreathed and luscious honeysuckle, and the verdurous snowy-flowered elder, embellish every wayside, or light up the most shadowy region of the wood. Field peas and beans, in full flower, add their spicy aroma. The red clover is, at once, splendid and profuse of its honeyed breath. The young corn is bursting into ear. The awned heads of rye, wheat, and barley, and the nodding panicles of oat, shoot

forth from their green and glaucous stems in broad, level, and waving expanses of present beauty and future promise. The very waters are garlanded with flowers. The hickbean, like a fringed hyacinth, the delicate water violet (Hottonia palustris), the elegant flowering rush, and the queen of the waters, the pure and splendid white lily, invest every stream and lonely mere with grace. The mavis and the merie, those worthy favourites of the olden bards, and the woodlark, make the solitude resound with their eloquent even song.

Over its own sweet voice the stock-dove broods; and the cuckoo pours its mellowest note from some region of twilight shadow. The sun-sets of this month are commonly glorious. The mighty luminary goes down pavilioned amidst clouds of every hue,—the splendour of burnished gold, the deepest mazarine blue, fading away, in the higher heavens, to the palest azure; and an ocean of purple shadow flung over the twilight of woods, or the far-stretching and lovely landscape. The heart of the spectator is touched: it is melted and rapt into dreams of past and present,—pure, elevated, and tinged with a poetic tenderness which can never awake amidst the crowd of mortals or of books.

'SONNET. The summer sun had set! the blue mist sailed Along the twilight lake: no sounds arose, Save such as hallow nature's sweet repose. And charm the ear of peace! Young zephyr hailed In vain the slumbering echo. In the grove The song of night's lone bard, sweet Philomel, Broke not the holy calm; the soft notes fell Like the low whispered smiles of timid love. I paused in adoration: and such dreams As haunt the pensive soul, intensely fraught With silent incommunicable thought, And sympathy profound, with fitful gleams Caught from the memory of departed years, Flashed on my mind, and woke luxurious tears! Blackwood's Magazine. The state of nature we have described is just that which might be imagined to co-exist with perpetual summer. There are sunshine, beauty, and abundance, without a symptom of decay. But this will not last. We soon perceive the floridity of nature merging into a verdant monetony: we find a silence stealing over the landscape so lately filled with the voice of every creature's exultation. The nightingale is gone, and the cuckoo will depart in less time than is allowed him in the peasant's traditionary calendar.

In April
The cuckoo shows his bill.
In May
He sings both night and day.
In June
He altereth his tune.
In July
Away he'll fly.
In August
Go he must.

Anon the scythe is heard ringing,—a sound happy in its immediate associations, but, in fact, a note of preparation for winter—a knell of the passing year. It reminds us, in the midst of warmth and fertility, that we must prepare for nakedness and frost; and that stripping away of the earth's glorious robe which it begins, will never cease till it leaves us in the dreary tempestuous region of winter; so

That fair flower of beauty fades away,
As doth the lily fresh before the sunny ray.
Great enemy to it and all the rest
That in the garden of fair nature springs
Is wicked Time, who, with his scythe addrest,
Does mow the flowering herbs and goodly things,
And all their glory to the ground down flings,
Where they do wither, and are fowlly marred;
He flies about, and with his flaggy wings
Beats down both leaves and buds without regard,
Ne, ever pity may relent his malice hard.

FAERY QUEENE, b. iii.

Let us not, however, anticipate too sensitively the

progress of time; let us rather enjoy the summer festivities which surround us. The green fruits of the orchard are becoming conspicuous, and the young nuts in the hedges and copses; the garden presents ripe cherries, melting strawberries, and gooseberries and currants, assuming tints of ripeness, are extremely grateful. Grasses are now in flower, and when the larger species are collected, and disposed tastefully, as we have seen them, by ladies, in vases, polished horns, and over pier-glasses, they retain their greenness through the whole year, and form, with their elegantly pensile panicles, bearded spikes, and silken plumes, exceedingly graceful ornaments.

Sheep-shearing, begun last month, is generally completed in this. The hay harvest has commenced, and in some southern counties, if the weather be favourable, completed; but next month may be considered the general season of hay-making.

Much amusement may be derived from an attentive observance of the common white or barn owlduring the mild evenings of this month. See our previous volumes.—Some interesting particulars of the burrowing owl of America are detailed in Lucien Buonaparte's continuation of 'Wilson's American Ornithology.'

Venerable ruins, crumbling under the influence of time and vicissitudes of season, are habitually associated with our recollec-

The delicious strawberry, of which numerous varieties (or perhaps species) in our gardens well compensate the want of many a tropical luxury, is altogether the fruit of a cool climate. In Sweden, the wood-strawberries are so abundant, that the tables are chiefly supplied with wild fruit. Linnæus gave a general order to his servants to buy all that were brought to his door throughout the season, thinking this fruit peculiarly wholesome for persons of a gouty habit. In Gloucestershire, we have seen strawberries for the dessert gathered out of the woods every day; indeed, most woods and thickets in Britain produce them. The fruit blossoms appear in May, and are succeeded by others till August.

tions of the owl; or be is considered as the tengnt of sombre forests, whose nocturnal gloom is rendered deeper and more awful by the harsh dissonance of his voice. In poetry, he has long been regarded as the appropriate concomitant of darkness and horror; and, when heard screaming from the topmost fragments of some mouldering wall, whose ruggedness is but slightly softened by the mellowing moonlight, imagination loves to view him as a malignant spirit, hooting triumphantly over the surrounding desolation! But we are now to make the reader acquainted with an owl to which none of these associations can belong: a bird that, so far from seeking refuge in the ruined babitations of man, fixes its residence within the earth; and, instead of concealing itself in the solitary recesses of the forest. delights to dwell on open plains, in company with animals remarkable for their social disposition, neatness, and order. stead of sailing heavily forth in the obscurity of the evening or morning twilight, and then retreating to mope away the intervening hours, our owl enjoys the broadest glare of the noonday sun. and flying rapidly along, searches for food or pleasure during the cheerful light of day.

In the trans-Mississippian territories of the United States, the burrowing owl resides exclusively in the villages of the marmot, or prairie dog, whose excavations are so commodicus: as to render it unnecessary that our bird should dig for himself, as he is said to do in other parts of the world, where no burrowing animals exist. These villages are very numerous, and variable in their extent, sometimes covering only a few acres, and at others spreading over the surface of the country for miles together. They are composed of slightly elevated mounds, having the form of a truncated cone, about two feet in width at the base, and seldom rising as high as eighteen inches from the surface of the soil. The entrance is placed either at the top, or on the side, and the whole mound is beaten down externally, especially at

the summit, resembling a much-used footpath.

From the entrance, the passage into the mound descends vertically for one or two feet, and is thence continued obliquely downwards until it terminates in an apartment, within which the industrious marmot constructs, on the approach of the cold season, the comfortable cell for his winter's sleep. This cell, which is composed of fine dry grass, is globular in form, with an opening at the top capable of admitting the finger; and the whole is so firmly compacted, that it might, without injury, be rolled over the floor.

It is delightful, during fine weather, to see these lively little ereatures sporting about the entrance of their burrows, which are always kept in the neatest repair, and are often inhabited by several individuals. When alarmed, they immediately take refuge in their subterranean chambers, or, if the dreaded danger

he not immediately impending, they stand near the brink of the entrance, bravely barking, and flourishing their tails, or else sit

erect to reconnoitre the movements of the enemy.

The mounds thrown up by the marmot, in the neighbourhood of the Rocky Mountains, have an appearance of greater antiquity than those observed on the far-distant plains. They sometimes extend to several yards in diameter, although their elevation is trifling, and, except immediately surrounding the entrance, are clothed with a scanty herbage, which always distinguishes the area of these villages. Sometimes several villages have been observed almost entirely destitute of vegetation; and recollecting that the marmot feeds exclusively on grasses and herbaceous plants, it seems singular that this animal should always choose the most barren spot for his place of abode. However this may be accounted for, it at least affords an opportunity of beholding the approach of his enemies, and allows him to seek, within the bosom of the earth, that security which he has neither strength nor arms to command.

In all these prairie dog villages, the burrowing owl is seen moving briskly about, or else in small flocks scattered among the mounds, and at a distance it may be taken for the marmot itself, when sitting erect. They manifest but little timidity, and allow themselves to be approached sufficiently close for shooting; but if alarmed, some or all of them soar away, and settle down again at a short distance; if further disturbed, their flight is continued until they are no longer in view, or they descend into their dwell-

ings, whence they are difficult to dislodge.

We have no evidence that the owl and marmot habitually resort to one burrow; yet we are well assured by Pike, and others, that a common danger often drives them into the same excavation, where lizards and rattle-snakes also enter for concealment and safety. The owl observed by Vicillot, in St. Domingo, digs itself a burrow two feet in depth, at the bottom of which its eggs are deposited on a bed of moss, herb-stalks, and dried roots. These eggs are two in number, of a very pure white, nearly spheroidal, and about as large as those of the dove. When the young are only covered with down, they frequently ascend to the entrance to enjoy the warmth of the sun, but as soon as they are approached they quickly retire into the burrow.

The note of our bird is strikingly similar to the cry of the marmot; which sounds like cheh, cheh, pronounced several times in rapid succession; and were it not that the burrowing owls of the West Indies, where no marmots exist, utter the same sound, it might be inferred that the marmot was the unintentional tutor to the young owl: this cry is only uttered as the bird begins its flight. The food of the bird we are describing appears to consist entirely of insects; as, on examination of its stomach, nothing but parts of their bard wing-cases were found. The burrowing owl is

nine inches and a half long, and two feet in extent. The bill is horn colour, paler on the margin, and yellow on the ridges of both mandibles; the inferior mandible is strongly notched on each side: the capistrum before the eyes terminates in black rigid bristles, as long as the bill; the irides are bright yellow. The general colour of the plumage is a light burnt-umber, spotted with a whitish tiage, paler on the head and upper part of the neck; the lower part of the breast and belly are whitish, the feathers of the former being banded with brown; the inferiortail coverts are of an immaculate white.

The BEAUTIES of NATURE in JUNE.

Awhile I basked amid the hay; Sucked from the clover-flowers the honey: traced The shining-coated insects in the grass Threading their beautiful labyrinth; or the bee Eagerly rifling the fallen flowers, to catch Their fragrance ere the hot sun drink it up; Listened the little chorus of the gnats, And flies innumerous wheeling round and round In the warm sunbeam. Now, stretched out at length, I watched the many-coloured birds that sailed With various flight in the ethereal air: The lark with quivering wing mounting aloft Till my strained eye had lost him; though even then His ceaseless song came down, mellowed and fine, And fainter, and yet fainter, till it died: The swallow darting to and fro: the hawk, Round, and yet round, with slow and wary course Gliding; or hanging like a cloudy speck,-Or sinking slow with gently tremulous wing,— Or like an arrow rapidly darting down. The linnet, and the red-breast, and the thrush. The goldfinch, and the little wren, all birds That sing and frolic in the sun were there. I marked their differing motions; listened oft To their dissimilar songs, all at once, Yet without discord. Sometimes far above The beron flew with long, slow-flapping wings Sometimes the cooing wood-pigeon came near; The crow, and sea-gull with his plaintive cry.

A writer in the Farmer's Journal for June 21, 1824, suggests to gentlemen and experimental farmers the expediency of making experiments to ascertain the

degree of heat which a stack should attain in order to make good hav. 'A certain degree of heat is necessary, we know, in order to bring on the saccharine or sweet fermentation, and make good hay; carried much beyond that, the bituminous, or pitchy, fermentation takes place, and it becomes what is called mow-burnt, and has little or no nourishment in it; and with a greater degree of heat it takes fire. To ascertain the point and means of discovering the first of these stages is the desirable object.' After stating some rough experiments which he had made. he says, 'It is already customary with some to have a flue, or chimney, through the stack, to give vent to the heat, and prevent its firing. This flue is made sometimes by fixing a wooden flue upright in the middle when a stack is begun; sometimes by fixing a long pole, and drawing it up as the stack rises in height, and sometimes a sack stuffed with straw is used for the same purpose. But I do not recollect to have seen or heard, or seen it suggested, to have flues along the bottom of the stack to communicate with the upright one. For this purpose, I would have a raised foundation laid of brickwork, or stone, or earth, above a foot in height, with flues in it of perhaps a foot or more square; the upper part to be covered over with pieces of board with intervals between. or with fargot wood to prevent the hay falling in In a round stack, or cock, two flues, cutting each other at right angles in the centre, might be sufficient: but in a long stack there should be one along the middle of the length, and two, or more, across the shorter diameter, and where these intersect each other, the wooden or perpendicular flues should be These, for the purpose of making them more portable, might be made in joints, or portions, to be put upon each other as the stack rises, and not made of whole boards, but of slats, with spaces between; and, at the ends of all the flues, I would have

wooden stoppers (like the stoppers which we often see used to put into the sockets made to hold the posts for the lines to be fixed to, in a ground for drying linen), by means of which the flues could be more or less opened or closed, and the current of air managed for regulating the heat of the hay, and might be quite stopped up when the hay had attained its proper state.' He mentions having plunged a wide-mouthed quart bottle into a stack, into which he put his thermometer to try the heat, as the thermometer, if plunged in by itself, fell the moment it felt the cooler air, and it was difficult to know at what point it had stood in the stack.

On HEARING a RUSTIC SONG.

Oh warble, oh warble, those lays,
Their cadence is welcome to me,
Recalling to fancy the days
When my footsteps to wander were free.

When through the deep shade of the wood I could range uncontrolled, unconfined, Or pause on the brink of the flood, And mark how the wild-flowers twined.

Let me through thy music's soft power
Again behold days that are past,
When life was an opening flower
Which had not encountered the blast.

I little deemed visions so gay
Would ever be clouded by sorrow,
And where I ranged cheerful to-day
Made sure to range blissful to-morrow.

Then warble, oh warble, thy strain,
Whilst list'ning my soul finds relief,
As tracing the joys that have lain
In my path ere 'twas clouded by grief.

Holloway.

Ę. B'.

As the month of June presents us with an abundant variety of Flora's choicest gifts, the following remarks 'on the difference between a lover of flowers

This lady has lately published a thin brackure of poetry, which has interested all those who have the happiness of her acquaintance.

and a botanist' will not, we presume, be considered out of season by our readers.

A lover of flowers may be a careless unscientific loiterer among woods and green lanes, and pasture-lands, with a quick eye for beauty, but a dull memory for names; or, he may be a lover of gardening, and may grow fond and tender over his nurselings, with a hatred of your prying and rude-handed botanizers; or, he may be a lover of the country caged in London, who

Still retains
His inborn, inextinguishable thirst
Of rural scenes, compensating his loss
By supplemental shifts, the best he may.

Parlour-gardening should not be looked on with contempt by a lover of the country, as if such a garden could not afford range at least for the mind. There is, in some respects, an intenser interest attaching to plants reared and tended under such circumstances. They are, as it were, the love-tokens of Nature, the keep-sakes of an absent friend, serving us, as Cowper says,

With a hint

That Nature lives—— Though sickly samples of th' exuberant whole.

Then, as fellow-exites and fellow-prisoners, they inspire a sort of sympathy even greater than that which we feel for the caged bird, who seems so merry over his trough and fountain, that it is plain he does not quarrel with the conditions of his servitude. But shrubs and flowers never forget their native soil, and are apt to put on a melancholy aspect, and hang their heads like a sick child, for want of a change of air. One is insensibly led on this account to contract a fond feeling towards them, such as Grav displays in his Letters. He 'did not think it beneath him to supply the want of a larger garden, with flower-pots in his windows, to look to them entirely himself, and to take them in, with all due tenderness, of an evening.' This is the case with all simple pleasures, whether rural or domestic. The employment in question partakes of both, and while it adds a grace to home, it supplies a source of quiet amusement well adapted to promote mild and serene sentiments, and amiable feelings. Cowley quaintly remarks, that

God the first garden made, and the first city Cain, which no doubt suggested the often cited line of Cowper,

Gop made the country, and man made the town.

And he exclaims in the same Ode—

Who that hath reason, and his smell, Would not among roses and jasmine dwell, Rather than all his spirits choke With exhalations of dirt and smoke, And all the uncleanness which does drown, In pestilential clouds, a populous town¹?

The New-Forest in Hampshire abounds with insects during this month, and, amongst other rarities, may be enumerated the Melasis buprestoides, figured in Mr. Curtis's British Entomology (Pl. 55): the neighbourhood of Heron-court in the same county supplies a very rare moth, Eulepia cribrum (Pl. 56); Coombe Wood has enriched the cabinets of the British Museum, and Mr. Stephens with specimens of Cryptus pallipes, Leach (Pl. 58), a perfectly new species, with very singular antennæ. Plate 60 exhibits the grand and beautiful Cossus liquiperda, both in its larva and imago states; its usual food is the internal substance of poplars and willows, which I have known, says Mr. Curtis, so completely pierced in every direction by these larvæ, which exist in that state three years, that the first high wind has broken them down; in other instances they have ascended the standards of young willow trees, the pith of which has been entirely destroyed. They are met with occasionally in June, but most frequently in September, at which time the specimen figured was found: it spun up in a few days, after endeavouring to make its escape from the smooth vessel in which it was at first confined, by the ingenious method exhibited in the plate, forming a ladder of its web, which enabled it to ascend even glass to any height: my attention was first called to the fact (continues Mr. C.) by my esteemed friend Henry Browne, Esq., of Norwich, although I found afterwards that it had been observed by Roësel. The caterpillars emit a most disagreeable scent, nevertheless it was the opinion of Ray and Linnæus that they were a favourite dish of the Romans.

Those who are desirous of cultivating pan-flowers and parlourgardens, we refer to an elegant and pleasing volume, entitled 'Flora Domestica.'

The following also may be mentioned: Dolichopeza sylvicola, Curtis (Pl. 62), a new species of gnat characterised by its silvery feet. This month supplies a beautiful genus of saw-flies, containing fourteen species. amongst which is Hylotoma Stephensii, (Pl. 65), taken at Darent-wood, Kent. Microdon apiformis (Pl. 70) is found in the New-Forest and Epping-Forest at this time; one of the loveliest moths (the peach-blossom), Hyatira Batis (Pl. 72), makes its appearance in this month. The genus cyduus (of which a species new to Britain, in the British Museum, is figured at Pl. 74) is found this month. Plate 76 presents us with the moth, caterpillar, and plant, upon which Chariclea Delphinii (the peasblossom moth) feeds; this is one of our rarest and most beautiful lepidoptera. In Plate 77, we find Mutilla ephippium, male and female, a genus nearly allied to the ants, which with M. Europea, a handsome insect, is found occasionally in this month.

Another insect (Libia Suecica), possessed alone by the British Museum, is figured at Pl. 87: it was found in Somersetshire. L. crux-minor, another very rare species, is found also this month, and in August, both at Coombe-wood and in the New-Forest: the same wood also furnishes a saw-fly (Abia nigricomis, Pl. 89). Reaumur, says Mr. Curtis, has given copious illustrations of the larvæ and pupæ of the type of the genus, which were amongst the earliest objects in nature that attracted our notice: the former are the beautiful red worms seen in stagnant water, so peculiar in their mode of jerking themselves about; and the latter are the little objects with a globular thorax, and feathered head and tail, seen lying close to the surface of the water, and descending to the bottom when any one approaches: a very rare species of this genus, Chironomus æstivus, is figured at Pl. 90. Plate 93 represents Clavellaria marginata. a beautiful saw-fly from Windsor, preserved in the cabinet of the British Museum, and a pretty plant

found in the north of Perthshire, by the author. Darent and Coombe woods produce, at this time, the Laphria nigra (Pl. 94). The 100th Plate gives us figures of a perfectly new and charming moth (Cnephasia bellana, Curtis) taken by the author at Arthur's seat. A male bee (Panurgus ursinus), not uncommon near Shooter's-hill, is figured in Pl. 101; and Hylurgus piniperda, an insect as destructive to the pines as Scolytus destructor is to the elm, is figured at Pl. 104. An unique British insect, which the author supposes to be attached to the deer, the Estrus pictus of Meigen, is represented at Pl. 106; a single specimen was taken by Mr. SAMOUBLLE in the New-Forest, the 12th of June: the same forest produces a singular fly, figured in the 110th Plate, called Henops marginatus, and a beetle (Zonitis testacea) which is far from common.

Wasps.—Some of these insects, like the bees, live in society, constructing nests composed of cells, but formed of very different materials. The Odyneri, on the contrary, do not unite to form a nest to live in, whence they are called solitary wasps; their economy, however, is exceedingly curious, and they exhibit a degree of instinct which can scarcely be surpassed. Their eggs are deposited in cells made in old walls or sandy banks, about which the species may be found in June, as well as upon flowers. Mr. Charles Fox detected upon the top of a book, across which another was laid, some cells of a somewhat triangular form, covered externally with mud, and formed of a silky substance within: this book he transmitted to Mr. Curtis, the author of the British Entomology, in the winter of 1825, and in the following spring nearly 20 specimens of the Odynerus parietinus (fig. 137 of Mr. C.'s valuable publication) made their appearance; they were all females, and did not vary in the least. It is very easily distinguished from our other species, by the unclouded wings, and the entire orange underside of the antennæ.

POETICAL PICTURES in JUNE.

Early Morning.

The morning-star has shut the gates of Night—
The soaring lark, in his blue temple, sings
A madrigal to heaven—a thousand wings
Of woodland birds are fluttering in the grove—
The black-bird pipes his anthem with delight,
And sporting lambs o'er verdant pastures rove,
Or sudden join in infant gambol; trooping
O'er many a flower, with heavy dew-drops stooping.
The rising Sun, fresh peeping on the plain,
Sends forth his beams creation to adorn;—
The linnet pours a matin from the thorn,—
The peasant hies him to the field with glee;—
I've known such scenes an antidote for pain;

R. MILLHOUSE.

Morning.

But now, no antidote have they for me!

O who can look
Upon the Sun, whose beam indulgent shines
Impartial, or on moor or cultured mead,
And not feel gladness? Hard is that man's lot,
Bleak is his journey through this vale of tears,
Whose heart is not made lighter, and whose eye
Is brightened not by Morning's glorious ray,
Wide-glancing round. The meanest thing on earth
Rejoices in the welcome warmth, and owns
Its influence reviving.

Who would bless The landscape, if upon his morning walk He greeted not the feathery nations, perched For love or song amid the dancing leaves; Or wantoning in flight from bough to bough. From field to field? Ah! who would bless thee, JUNE, If silent, songless were the groves,—unheard The lark in Heaven?—And he who meets the bee Rifling the bloom, and listless hear his hum Incessant ringing through the glowing day; Or loves not the gay butterfly, which swims Before him in the ardent noon, arrayed In crimson, azure, emerald, and gold; With more magnificence upon his wing, His little wing, than ever graced the robe Gorgeous of Royalty;—is like the kine

That wanders 'mid the flowers which gem the meads, Unconscious of their beauty.

DARTMOOR; a Poem.

Oh, forest lawns!—Oh, lawns of tender green,
That spread in sunshine, crowned with copsy groves,
Or, winding in deep glades, retire among
The shades of ages, my glad steps receive!
Oh! let me, with your fawns, bound o'er these slopes,
Fresh with the dew that melts apace before
The morning ray, leaving long level lines
Of hoary silver, 'mid the various hues
Of lichen, turf, and mead-flower. Let me seek,
With tempered pace and reverential thought,
Your far-seen solitudes and deepest gloom,
And often note the monarch of the woods
In pious wonder.

MRS. RADCLIFFE.

Noon.

It was the hour of noon; the God of day Stood on the highest pinnacle of heaven, Glorious, majestic, inexpressibly bright. His torrid beams seemed as they would dissolve The solid earth, and drink the ocean up: The herbs and flowers bowed down their fainting heads: The cattle lay asleep beneath the shade Of drooping trees: -the distant rocks, and hills. And fields, were covered with a shining mist: The gossamer trailed its lazy length along: All sounds came through the hot, thick, streaming air. Deadened and indistinct. It was an hour Voluptuously to give up all the soul To the intoxicating sense of life Pervading the whole frame, whose every atom Seemed with a separate consciousness endowed, And drinking in delight.—To breathe, to look. To move, were acts of pleasure; to lie still, Feeling at every pore the sunny warmth, And the rich breezes, like an odorous bath Of softest, lightest waters, playing round The bappy limbs, or loitering in the hair; Or in the echoing porches of the ear Breathing a thousand gentle whisperings, Or sighs most musical; or tiny laughings; Or beautiful babblings, as of airy tongues Heard from afar: -O, it was all delight!

ATHERSTONE.

Ebening.

How, lovely Evening, is thy parting smile!
The twilight softness of thy glowing sky
May well the pensive poet's dream beguile,
And kindle rapture in his languid eye.
There is a quiet magic in the sigh
Of thy cool breezes, and thy twinkling dews,
The insects' hum, the birds' wild melody,
Thy few faint stars, and all the varying hues
That o'er thy pallid cheek their maiden blush suffuse.

I love the setting sun's last glance of light,
When vernal clouds have wept themselves away;
Flowers are more fragrant, and their tints more bright,
More blithe the nightingale's reviving lay:
The drops fall sparkling from the leafy spray,
As fitted breezes toss the straggling brier;
And the far hill flings back the level ray;
So pure the liquid air, that cot and spire,
Distinct in distance, gleam with evening's golden fire.

H. MALDON

Night.

In blissful meditation, drinking deep
The warm, rich incense of a night in June,
In earth's least earthly joy!

And such a night Is even now. The Sun an hour ago Went down without a cloud; and, sinking, saw His gentle partner in the eastern heaven. Rising with radiant brow: and now she pours Her golden light on the thick-foliaged trees, And brightens the far hills that girdle round This most enchanting valley. A light mist, So light 'tis almost viewless, gathers o'er Those meadows crowded with spring flowers: I hear A hundred nightingales, remote and nigh. How beautiful !- here, in a poplar bower, Entwined thick with jessamine and rose, Clematis, and the sweet-breathed honeysuckle, I sit alone in a luxurious gloom ; And close above my head one joyous bird Pours fearlessly a loud triumphant song; And, as he pauses, far away I hear Unnumbered delicate answerings, jocund trills,

¹ The Vale of Tone, Someiset.

And low, soft breathings; and the swell and fall
Of gently-talking waters. O! this hour
Is worth a thousand days in gaudy courts,
Or noisy cities.

ATHERSTONE.

Scotian Botany for June.

In this month, plants 'infinite in number, delicacy, smell, and hues on hues expression cannot paint,' cover the face of Nature, The hawthorn hedge (Cratagus oxyacantha) is now decorated by its universally admired milk-white blossoms, and the dog rose (Rosa canina) and sweet brier (R. rubiginosa) spangle it with their gay expanded flowers; and in the evening, when sprinkled with dew, aid in delighting us with their fragrant smell. In many hedges the common holly (Ilex aquifolia) is now also to be seen in flower: this elegant evergreen shrub does well for the making of fences, both on account of its prickles, and of its bearing the knife without injury. Its fruit, a berry of a bright scarlet colour, was formerly much used to ornament places of worship about Christmas; and its twigs are employed in the manufacture of bird-lime. The bitter-sweet or woody nightshade (Solanum dulcamara), with its little flower resembling that of the potatoe, climbs into the hedge for support, which it by-and-by adorns with its red berries. Under the same shade and protection, the gloomy Scrophularia nodosa (knotty-rooted figwort) elevates its loose spike of greenish-purple flowers, with the lurid Atrops belladonna (deadly nightshade). This last plant belongs to the class Pentandria monogynia, and to the natural order Solanea. It is perennial and herbaceous: all parts of it are poisonous, but particularly the berries, which, being of a beautiful black colour, and of a sweetish taste, have been eaten by children, and not unfrequently have proved fatal. A frightful list of symptoms follows their use, which, if not speedily relieved, terminate in death. It is said that

Oh! there's a wild-rose in yon rugged dell,
Fragrant as that which blooms the garden's pride;
And there's a sympathy no tongue can tell,
Breathed from the linnet chanting by its side:
And there is music in that whispering rill,
Far more delightsome than the raging main;
And more of beauty in yon verdant hill,
Than to the grandest palace can 'pertain:
For there is nought so lovely and serene,
Throughout the chambers of the mightlest king,
As the pure calm that rests upon this scene,
'Mid sporting lambkins and the songs of Spring:
Yet, oft attracted by some dazzling show,
Man flies from peace, pursuing gilded woe,
MILLEGUES.

vinegar, if taken immediately has given great relief, but most dependance is to be placed upon the speedy ejection of the berries by vomiting: although poisonous, the belladonna, in the hands of men of science, has become a much esteemed remedy, both externally and internally. When rubbed about the eye in cases of cataract, it possesses the property of dilating the pupil, and there-The Geum urbanum and by greatly facilitates the operation. rivale (the common and water avens) are plentiful under the hedges; the former has yellow, and the latter brownish columbinelike flowers: the seeds of these plants, like the burdock, agrimony, &c., are furnished with hook-like appendages, which attach themselves to passing animals, and are thus removed to a distance from their original place of growth. The common hemiock (Conium maculatum) is also very abundant by the sides of our ditches: it is a biennial, umbelliferous plant, and grows to the height of four or five feet. In spring it is poisonous, but becomes much less so in autumn. Its stem is hollow, and marked with dingy spots: its leaves are large, and much divided; the flowers are small and white, and its fruit flattish and furrowed. In medicine, it is employed both as a cataplasm in cancer, and internally is administered in similar diseases, in form of powder.

On our road-sides are seen the little cerulean flowers of the ground ivy (Glecoma hederacea), the Veronica syrpilifolia, Agrestis arvensis, and hederifolia, the thyme-leaved, procumbent, small-leaved, and ivy-leaved speedwells; and the Myosotis arvensis, and versicolor, the field and variegated scorpion grasses. The yellow birdsfoot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus), Trifolium minus (small vellow trefoil), Potentilla reptans, and anserina (the creeping cinquefoil, and silver weed), the Tormentilla reptans, and officinalis, the trailing and common tormentil, with many species of ranunculus, display their yellow flowers. The fields are now also rich in many species of clover, particularly the Trifolium reptans. pratense, arvense, and strictum, Dutch and purple clover, and haresfoot and knotted trefoil. The Orbus tuberosus, with purple flowers, the yellow meadow vetchling (Lathyrus pratencis), and the tufted, the common, and the bush vetch, with their blue or purple flowers, are all abundant. In moist meadows, the Habenaria bifolia, or butterfly habenaria, H. albida, small white habenaria, and Gymnodanea conopsia, lend their aid in perfuming our evening walks; and the four following species of orchis at present gratify us by displaying their elegant reddish flowers, namely, Orchis morio, masculata, latifolia, and maculata, the meadow, early spotted, marsh, and spotted orchises. These belong to the Linnæan class Gynandria, natural order Orchidea. Their roots are all tuberous or palmate; when cleaned, boiled, and dried. they constitute the salep of the shops. In taste and nutritive qualities they differ but little from starch, which indeed is often substituted for it. In woods, the elegant little Oxalis acetosella.

wood-sorrel, displays its delicately-veined white flowers: its trefoil leaf possesses a considerable degree of sensibility, drooping in the evening, or when rudely touched. This delicate little plant delights in the shade, and is to be found throughout the summer months. Its taste is acid and cooling, and it forms a most delicious salad. The Lysimachia nemorum and nummularia, the loose-strife and money-wort, the enchanter's nightshade (Circea lutetiana), and the chickweed winter-green (Trianalis europæa), are all to be found in similar shaded situations. In woody places the common berberry-bush (Berberis vulgaris) is also occasionally found. Its flowers are yellow; its berries red, oblong, and a little curved: their taste is acid and agreeable, and they are much employed by pastry-cooks for making tarts. 'The stamina of the berberry are six in number, and placed so as to correspond with the concave point of its petals, by which they are covered and protected till the pollen is ripe; when this is the case, the under part of the filament acquires a peculiar sensibility, and, when touched by the feet of insects in search of honey, it immediately contracts, becomes dislodged from under the petal, dashes its pollen upon the stigma, and gradually retires to its former position, giving place to others which act the same part in their turns. On our mountains the rose root (Rhodiola rosea) frequently occurs, bearing its yellow flowers upon the top of its short erect stem. Its leaves are fleshy and wedge-shaped, and its root is thick and succulent. When dried, it possesses a smell much resembling that of roses'. The Genista scoparium, or com-

> No. ah! no: not just like love. Is you gay and conscious rose; All its flaunting leaves disclose Sunshine joy-and fearless prove; Not like love!

But yonder little violet-flower. That, folded in its purple veil, And trembling to the lightest gale, Weeps beneath that shadowing bower, Is just like love !

Though filled with dew its closing eyes. Though bends its slender stem in air. It breathes perfume and blossoms fair; It feeds on tears, and lives on sighs. Just like love!

And should a sunbeam kiss its leaf, How bright the dew-drops would appear! Like beams of hope upon a tear, Like light of smiles through parting grief! And just like love!

MRS. RADCLIFFE.

mon broom, now paints our hills with its yellow papilionaceous flowers, and is applied to various demestic uses. The little procumbent Polygala vulgaris (milk wort) also occurs upon hilly pastures, which it decorates with its flowers, sometimes blue, red, or white. On the sides of our lakes and marshes the bur-feed (Sparangium ramosum), and many species of carix mantle their banks; while the pond-weed (potamogeton), and the common buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata), one of our most beautiful native plants, cover the water with their foliage. The flowers of the trefoil are white, marked with pink spots: its leaves are three-lobed, and grow upon footstalks which surround the flower-stem. Its taste is very bitter, and its infusion is much used in stomachic complaints.

FIELD FLOWERS.

[By Thomas Campbell, Esq.]

Ye field-flowers! the gardens eclipse you, 'tis true, Yet, wildings of Nature, I doat upon you,

For ye waft me to summers of old,

When the court toomed around me with fairst delice.

When the earth teemed around me with faëry delight, And when daisies and buttercups gladdened my sight, Like treasures of silver and gold.

I love you for lulling me back into dreams

Of the blue Highland mountains and echoing streams, And of broken glades breathing their balm,

While the deer was seen glancing in sunshine remote, And the deep mellow crush of the wood-pigeon's note Made music that sweetened the calm.

Not a pastoral song has a pleasanter tune Than ye speak to my heart, little wildings of JUNE:

Of old ruinous castles ye tell,

Where I thought it delightful your beauties to find, When the magic of Nature first breathed on my mind, And your blossoms were part of her spell.

Ev'n now what affections the violet awakes!
What loved little islands, twice seen in their lakes,
Can the wild water-lily restore!

What landscapes I read in the primrose's looks, And what pictures of pebbled and minnowy brooks In the vetches that tangled their shore!

Earth's cultureless buds, to my heart ye were dear, Ere the fever of passion or ague of fear

Had scathed my existence's bloom; Once I welcome you more, in life's passionless stage, With the visions of youth to revisit my age,

And I wish you to grow on my tomb.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCTS, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

· Sune.

The thermometer, the first half of this month, rises frequently to 96 in the shade at noon, from which time, that is, on or about the 15th, if the rains commence, the heat of course subsides. The general range is from 77 to 90. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta 5 h. 18 m., sets 6 h. 42 m.

The weather throughout the whole of this month, however, is pleasant or oppressive, according to the quantity of rain that falls: if the weather is dry, the heat is intolerable, generally very close, without a breath of air from any quarter; but if the rains come in, as they are always expected to do (in regular seasons) between the 10th and 20th of the month, the air

is refreshed, and the weather comfortable.

On the 7th of June, 1822, the rains set in with greater violence than was ever remembered on any former period. During the height of the storm, 9 inches of rain fell in 60 hours (equal to one-fifth of the total fall of last year), of which 7½ inches fell in 24 hours; that is, from Friday (the 7th), at 5 A.M. to 5 A.M. on Saturday. From the commencement of this hurricane, on Friday at 5 A.M. to the following Monday at 1 P.M., being 90 hours, the total fall of rain was 22½ inches.

Meats are indifferent, and the fish-market is much the same as last month; mangoes and mangoe fish are in great abundance, and in great perfection: the Malda mangoes are sent into Calcutta about the middle of this month, which are reckoned, without exception, to be the best that can be procured in Bengal. Grapes, peaches, leecheæas, &c., go out this month; pineapples in great perfection; custard-apples and guavas now come into season; vegetables are all out, except asparagus, potatoes, onions, and Indian corn.

Sultry-Rainy.

FULD.

THIS month took the name of Quintilis, on account of its being the fifth in the Romulean year; it received that of Julius, in memory of Julius Cæsar, who was born on the 12th of this month. Jupiter was its tutelar deity. The sign of this month is Leo.

... Remarkable Days

In JULY 1827.

1.—VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

This festival was instituted by Pope Urban VI, to commemorate the visit of the Virgin Mary to the mother of John the Baptist.

3.—DOG-DAYS BEGIN.

By dog-days the antients meant a certain number of days, about forty, some before and some after the heliacal rising of Canicula, or the dog-star, in the morning. The term is supposed to have originated with the Egyptians. With us, it simply implies the hottest part of the year, which, in this country, is usually thought to be from July 3d to August 11th.

4.—TRANSLATION OF SAINT MARTIN.

This day was appointed to celebrate the removal of St. Martin's bones from a common grave to a splendid tomb. The bodies of many of the martyrs having been buried in obscure places, and exposed, when the persecution ceased they were brought to light, and decently interred. Thus began the translation of relics, which was afterwards performed with great ceremony and devotion; the possession of them being esteemed the most valuable of treasures, not less than the bones of some of the heroes of antiquity, or particular images of some of their gods, which had likewise been carried from place to place with great solem-

nity, and probably afforded a pattern for this translation of christian relics. In 359, Constantius caused the bodies of St. Andrew and St. Luke to be taken out of their sepulchres, and carried with great pomp to Constantinople, to the temple of the twelve apostles, which was a church that had been built to their honour by Constantine. This is the first example of the translation of the bodies of saints into churches, and the custom being once begun, was

afterwards carried to the greatest excess.

This respect for relics was much forwarded by the eloquence of preachers, and by no person more than Chrysostom. 'I esteem the city of Rome,' says he, 'not because of the pillars of marble, but because of the pillars of the church therein, the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul. Who can now afford me the favour of being stretched out on the body of St. Paul, of being nailed to his sepulchre, of beholding the dust of that body which bore the marks of the Lord Jesus, and that mouth by which Christ himself spake? I long to see the sepulchre wherein is inclosed that armour of righteousness, that armour of light, those members which still live, and which were dead whilst living. I long to see those chains, those bonds, &c.'

*4. 1826.—JOHN ADAMS, ÆT. 90, AND THOMAS JEFFERSON, ÆT. 78, DIED.

The coincidence attendant on the departure of these two trans-atlantic statesmen is very remarkable; they both died on the 50th anniversary of American independence, of which they were among the chief supporters. Mr. Jefferson is chiefly known as an author by his 'Notes on Virginia,' which appeared in the year 1781. As we have not space for any thing like a memoir of Messrs. Adams and Jefferson, we must refer our readers to the Gentleman's Magazine (vol. xcvi, part II, pp. 270-274) for interesting biographical sketches of these celebrated men.

*5. 1826.—SIR T. S. RAFFLES DIED, ÆT. 45.

Of a character possessing so much interest as this distinguished individual, it would be desirable to give a full length portrait; but the space allotted to this article will not admit of more than a mere sketch. It must suffice cursorily to observe, that his literary qualifications were highly respectable; that his style was elegant, his application to study intense, and his habits of research laborious. He also appears to have been a man of unquestionable benevolence, and to have been influenced by an enlightened policy. This he evinced by avowing and acting upon the opinion, that the relation between colonies and those which are in common parlance called their parent states, implies more than mere exaction by the latter, and obedience from the former. He considered it to be the first duty of Governors to cultivate and improve, as well as to defend, the people who were subjected to their authority; and in the Governments which he administered, he endeavoured, not unsuccessfully, to fulfil this first duty. Possessed of a comprehensive mind, in whatever situation he was placed, he meditated great objects; some of which it was his good fortune to realize. The projects which he formed while he was at Prince of Wales's Island, were calculated to benefit the whole eastern archipelago. He there examined the Malay character, that he might improve it; and accordingly, when he had obtained the Government of Java, he essayed nothing less than its complete reformation, by the abrogation of some of the worst principles and practices which can deform society, and by the introduction of means of moral advancement, till then almost unknown, or long neglected, in that interesting part of the globe. The practices and principles which he sought to extirpate were cruelty, tyranny, fraud, and ignorance; those which it appears to have been his wish to introduce were knowledge and justice, by the efficient administration of equal laws, the recognition of personal and relative rights, the total abolition of bond service

and slavery, and by education.

The following works were written by Sir Stamford Raffles: 'The History of Java,' which appeared in 1817, in 2 vols. 4to.; and 'Finlayson's Mission to Siam, with Memoirs of the Author, by Sir T. S. Raffles,' 1822, 1 vol. 8vo. He is also known to have left some literary projects unexecuted, particularly a memoir of Singapore in manuscript.—For a very interesting and elaborate memoir of Sir T. S. Raffles, we refer, with pleasure, to the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xcvi, part II, p. 78 et seq.

7.—THOMAS A BECKET.

This haughty prelate was born in London, in the year 1119, and was the son of Gilbert, a merchant, and Matilda, a Saracen lady, who is said to have fallen in love with him when he was a prisoner to her father in Jerusalem. Thomas received the first part of his education at Merton Abbey, in Surrey, whence he went to Oxford, and afterwards studied at Paris. In 1159, he made a campaign with King Henry to Toulouse, having in his own pay 1200 horse, besides a retinue of 700 knights or gentlemen.

*7. 1826.—TAYLOR COMBE, M.A. F.R.S. F.S.A. DIED, ÆT. 52,

Director of the Society of Antiquaries, and Keeper of the Antiquities and Coins at the British Museum. He was the eldest son of the late Charles Combe, M.D. F.R.S. F.S.A., who was long distinguished as a collector of medals, and died in 1817. Mr. Taylor Combe was named after the family of his mother, who was the only daughter of Henry Taylor, Esq. He was educated at Harrow School, whence he was removed to Oriel College, Oxford, where he took the degree of M.A. July 10, 1798. He succeeded to an appointment in the British Museum in 1803, upon

the death of the Rev. Richard Penneck, when he had the especial charge delivered to him of the Cabinet of Coins, and in 1807 was placed at the head of the new department of Antiquities. In 1808 he married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Edward Whitaker Gray. Mr. Combe was elected F.S.A. in 1796; and became director of that Society on the resignation of Matthew Raper, Esq. in 1813. was chosen F.R.S. in 1806, and was elected Secretary to that learned body in 1812; he filled that office twelve years, and was then compelled to resign it on account of ill health.

Mr. Combe showed an early partiality for the investigation of classical antiquities; and has not left. behind him his equal in the knowledge of the Greek and Roman coins, nor his superior in British and Saxon coins. Thirty-three of the plates of Mr. Ruding's Annals of Coinage, containing the British and Anglo-Saxon coins, were engraved under Mr. Combe's direction, and were originally intended by him for a separate publication, which he afterwards

gave up.

Upon the completion of the building, and final arrangement of the Terra Cottas and Marbles of the Townley Gallery, the trustees of the British Museum called Mr. Combe's valuable services in aid to describe the stores with which that collection had enriched them. Accordingly, in 1811, his 'Description of the Terra Cottas' was published, with engravings from drawings by his friend and brother-officer W. Alexander, Esq. royal 4to. In 1812, appeared Part I. of his ' Description of the Collection of Antient Marbles,' containing those in the second room of the Gallery of Antiquities. In 1815, Part II. In 1818, Part III; and in 1820, Part IV. The last Part was exclusively confined to the description of the Sculptures which adorned the temple of Apollo Epicurius on Mount Cotylion, near the antient city of Phigalia in Arcadia. For this last portion, in consequence of the death of Mr. Alexander, the drawings were prepared by Henry Corbould, Esq. In the interval between the publication of the first and second portions of the Description of the Museum Marbles, Mr. Combe made and carried through the press a Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the Museum, entitled 'Veterum Populorum et Regum Numi qui in Museo Britannico adservantur,' 4to. Lond. 1814. It was prepared upon the plan of his father's description of Dr. Hunter's Coins, the manuscript of a Supplement to which, by Mr. Combe, was destroyed in 1819 in Bensley's second fire. The Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the Museum was accompanied by thirteen plates of coins most accurately and exquisitely engraved, with two plates of Monograms.

Exclusive of these works in a larger form, Mr. Combe contributed various memoirs to the Archeologia of the Society of Antiquaries; see vol. xiii, p. 280; xiv, p. 14; xv, p. 164; xv, p. 400; xvi, p. 247; xviii, p. 1; ibid. p. 199; ibid. p. 844; xix, p. 109,

149, 409.

As Director of the Society of Antiquaries, he superintended the publication of the latter portions of the Vetusta Monumenta; and as Secretary of the Royal Society, edited the volumes of the Philosophical Transactions from 1812 to 1824.

A description of the Cinerary Urns in the Museum is, we understand, preparing under the orders of the trustees for publication from his manuscript. He has also left behind him a complete catalogue of the Angle-Saxon coins in the Museum, with some other

catalogues prepared for the trustees.

Mr. Combe was an excellent Greek scholar; he possessed an extensive range of knowledge on subjects of Antiquity, and an eye peculiarly quick in reading antient inscriptions. He was strict in his principles, warm in his friendships, and kind to those who sought information of him. Whatever information he imparted was always minutely accurate.

EDWARD HAWKINS, Esq. a gentleman eminently

conversant with coins and medals, has, we understand, succeeded to Mr. Combe's appointment in the Museum.

15.—SAINT SWITHIN.

Swithin flourished in the ninth century. He was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 852, and died in 863. When he died, he gave charge that 'his body should not be laid within the church, but where the drops of rain might wet his grave,' 'thinking,' says Bishop Hall, 'that no vault was so good to cover his grave as that of heaven.'—See our former volumes.

19. 1821.—KING GEORGE IV CROWNED.

Some interesting particulars of this august ceremony will be found in T. T. for 1822, pp. 194-206, and in T. T. for 1824, p. 191.

20.—SAINT MARGARET.

Margaret was born at Antioch. She was first tortured, and then beheaded, in the year 278.

22.—mary magdalen.

This day was first dedicated to the memory of Mary Magdalen by Edward VI.

*24.1826.—saint declan's festival in ireland.

The following details of an annual scene of superstition exhibited at Armore (as it took place in 1826) betray all those features of ignorance, fanaticism, and bigotry, which have for ages degraded the fairest portions of Europe, wherever the petrifying breath of Popery has extended its baneful influence. The heathen gods of antiquity never received more blind adoration from their besotted devotees, than is paid to papal saints by the Irish Catholics.

The 24th of July being the day appointed by the Roman Catholic Church on which honour is publicly paid to the memory of St. Declan, the tutelar saint of that district, several thousand persons of all ages

^{&#}x27;Ryland, in his History of Waterford, says that the parish of Ardmore was antiently a place of some consequence, the favour-

and sexes assembled upon this occasion. The greater part of the extensive strand, which forms the western side of Ardmore Bay, was literally covered with a dense mass of people. Tents and stands for the sale of whisky, &c. &c. were placed in parallel rows along the shore; the whole, at a distance, bore the appearance of a vast encampment. had its green ensign waving upon high, bearing some patriotic motto. One of large dimensions, which floated in the breeze far above the others, exhibited the words-Villiers Stuart for ever. At an early hour in the day, those whom a religious feeling had drawn to the spot commenced their devotional exercises (in a state of half nudity) by passing under the holy rock of St. Declan. Two hundred and ninety persons of both sexes, thus prepared, knelt at one time indiscriminately around the stone, and passed separately under it to the other side. This was not effected without considerable pain and difficulty, owing to the narrowness of the passage, and the sharpness of the rocks within. Stretched at full length on the ground, on the face and stomach, each devotee moved forward, as if in the act of swimming, and thus squeezed or dragged themselves through. Both sexes were obliged to submit to this humiliating mode of proceeding; and upwards of eleven hundred persons were observed to go through this ceremony in the course of the day. A reverend gentleman who stood by part of the time was heard to exclaim, 'O, great is their faith.' Several of their reverences passed and repassed to and from the chapel, close by the holy rock, during the day.

This object of so great veneration is believed to be holy, and to be endued with miraculous powers. It

ite retreat of St. Declan, the friend and companion of St. Patrick. According to tradition, Ardmore was an episcopal see, established in the fifth century by St. Declan, whose fame and sanctity are still venerated here. St. Declan was born in this county, and was of the family of the Desii.

is said to have been wafted from Rome upon the surface of the ocean, at the period of St. Declan's founding his church at Ardmore, and to have borne on its top a large bell for the church tower, and also westments for the saint himself.

At a short distance from this sacred memorial, on a cliff overhanging the sea, is the well of the saint: thither the crowds repair, the devotions at the rock being ended. Having drunk plentifully of its water. they wash their legs and feet in the stream that issues from it, and telling their beads, sprinkle themselves and their neighbours with the sanctified liquid. These performances over, the grave of the patron saint is then resorted to. Hundreds at a time crowded around it, and crushed and trampled one another in their eagerness to obtain a handful of the earth which is believed to cover the mortal remains of Declar. A woman stood breast high in the grave, and served out a small portion of its clay to each person requiring it, from whom in return she received a penny or halfpenny for the love of the saint. In the course of time the abode of the saint has sunk to the depth of nearly four feet, its clay having been scooped away by the finger nails of the pious Catholics. human skull of large dimensions was placed at the head of the tomb, before which the people bowed. believing it to be the identical skull of their tutelar saint, who that day was present to look upon their devotions, and who would, upon his return to the mansions of bliss, intercede at the throne of grace for all such as did him honour. This visit to St. Declan's grave completed the devotional exercises of a day, held in greater honour than the Sabbath by all those who venerate the saint's name, and worship at his shrine. Nevertheless, the sanctity of a day, marked even by the most humiliating exercises of devotion, did not prevent its night being passed in riot and debauchery. The tents, which, throughout the day, the duties owing to the patron saint had caused to be empty, as evening closed became thronged with the devotees of the morning, and resounded till daybreak with the oaths of the blasphemer, and the shouts of the drunkard.

25.—SAINT JAMES.

St. James suffered martyrdom under Herod Agrippa, in July 44. He was beheaded with a sword. The Spaniards regard James as their tutelar saint. This is the first day of the Oyster-season in London; and although not reckoned good unless there be an r in the month, this sea-fruit is eagerly devoured by the canaille on this day, who eat them with as much gout in the broiling days of July, as the practised

gourmand does in cooler weather.

The Athenians held oysters in great esteem. They were not common at Rome, and consequently fetched there a very high price; yet Macrobius assures us, that the Roman pontiffs never missed having them every day on their tables. Apicius, the third of that name, was excessively fond of oysters. For them he used willingly to pay a most enormous price. Those of the Lucrine lake, of Brundusium and Abydos on the Hellespont, being reckoned by far the best, were sent as delicate presents to men of great rank. The Emperor Trajan, when waging war against the Parthians, received from this Apicius several baskets or barrels of them.

From the fourth century to the reign of Louis XIV, they were nearly forgotten; but they soon came again into vogue, and from that time have kept up their reputation. Gastronomers, we know, can swallow three or four dozen before dinner, and then sit down to eat heartily, and perhaps better than if they had abstained from them. They clear the stomach of accidental phlegm, increase the gastric juices, and, by their natural coolness, condense the air which may be fixed in the organs of digestion. When good, they are wholesome, but poisonous when bad. The late Louis XVIII. we are informed, was ac-

customed to swallow many (we are afraid to say how many) dozens of oysters, as a whet before dinner; hence he was called by the wags of Paris, Louis des huitres (oyster-Louis), in lieu of Louis dix-huit.

26.—SAINT ANNE.

Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary. Her festival was introduced by the Romish church.

*28. 1826.—BYERLEY DIED.

He was the Editor of the 'Literary Chronicle,' the 'Star Evening Newspaper,' and the 'Mirror;' and the compiler of the 'Percy Anecdotes.'

*29. 1710.—THE PITT DIAMOND PURCHASED, For £20,400, and afterwards sold to the King of France for £200,000.

The weight of diamonds is estimated in carats. 150 of which are equal to one ounce troy. average price of rough diamonds is about £2 per carat. According to this scale, a wrought diamond, 3 carats, is worth £72, and one of 100 carats £80,000. The largest diamond probably ever heard of is one mentioned by Tavernier, who saw it in the possession of the Great Mogul: it was about as big as a hen's egg, and weighed 900 carats in the rough. The largest diamond ever brought to Europe is one now in possession of the Sovereign of Russia: it weighs 195 carats, and was long employed as the eye of a Brahminical idol. A French soldier discovered the value of the gem; and changed his religion, worshipping at the altar of the god, that he might deprive him of his splendid eye. At length he succeeded in substituting a piece of glass for the diamond, and again became a good Christian! After passing through several hands, the Empress Catherine at length fixed it in the possession of the Russian Crown, giving for it £90,000, and a perpetual annuity of £1,000. It is cut in the rose form, and is the size of a pigeon's egg. One of the most beautiful is the Pitt diamond, which is a brilliant, and weighs rather more than 136 carats:

it was brought from India by Governor Pitt, and purchased by the Duke of Orleans, who placed it in the Crown of France, where it still remains. The celebrated Pigot diamond is now in the possession of Messrs. Rundell and Bridge.

See an interesting article in the Gentleman's Magazine (vol. xcv, part II, p. 105) for Governor Pitt's account of his celebrated diamond, with an en-

graved representation of it.

PRICES OF PROVISIONS, &c. FROM THE TIME OF KING JOHN TO HENRY VI, AN INTERVAL OF 800 YEARS.

John.-Wheat 1s. a quarter. HENRY III.—Barley 2s. a quarter; Oats 1s.; a good Horse 10s. EDWARD I.—A fat Capon 11d.; a Goose 4d.; a fat Lamb 4d.

EDWARD II .- A Cow 6s,; a Sheep 1s.; a Capon 2d.; a Hog 3s. 21d.; a Pig 6d.; a pair of Shoes 4d.; a fat Sheep 1s. 8d.; a fat Goose 21d.; Flaggon of Ale (4 quarts) 1d.; 1 Acre of Pasture 1d.

RICHARD II.—A Quarter of Wheat 2s.: 1 Ox 8s.: 1 Cow 5s.; Gallon of white Wine 6d.

EDWARD III.-A Quarter of Corn 2s.; 2 Hens 1d.; 1 Hog 1s. 6d.

HENRY IV.—Cow 7s.; 2 Bushels of Wheat 10d.; a Dung Cart 1s. 2d. .

HENRY VI.-A Ram 8d; 20 Pullets 1s. 8d; a Cow 2s. 8d. ESWARD III .-- A Quarter of Wheat 2s.; Fat Ox 6s. 8d.; Fat Sheep 6d.; Fat Goose 2d.; a Pig 1d.

HENRY IV .- A Quarter of Wheat 4s; Barley 2s.; Peas 1d.;

1 Gallon of red Wine 4d.

HENRY VI.—Weekly Allowance of Fellows of Colleges 1s. 4d. Goose Sd.

A Tailor's Bill in 1616.	8.	d.
For making a Suit of Clothes	4	0
For making a Cloak	1	6
For making a Morning Gown	1	8
For making a Black Gown	1	6

A yard of the very best Cloth in the reign of King Edward III, 1875, was

Astronomical Occurrences

In JULY 1927.

SUN-SET.

Welcome, sweet Eve, thy gently sloping sky,
And softly whispering wind that breathes of rest,
And clouds, unlike what daylight galloped by,—
Now stopped, as weary, huddling in the West;
Each, by the farewell of Day's closing eye,
Left with the smiles of Heaven on its breast!

Meek nurse of weariness, how sweet to meet
Thy soothing tenderness, to none denied;
To hear thy whispering voice:—Ah! heavenly sweet,
Musing and listening by thy gentle side,
Lost to life's cares, thy coloured skies to view,
Picturing of pleasant worlds unknown to care;
And, when our bark the rough sea flounders through,
Warming in hopes its end shall harbour there.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Leo at 13 m. after 5 in the afternoon of the 23d of this month, and he rises and sets during the same period as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

July .lst,	Sun rises 46	m. after	3. Sets	14 m. past S
6th	49		3	11 8
lith	52		3	8 8
				8 8
				57 7
				50 7
				42 7

Equation of Time.

When it is required to reduce apparent to true or mean time, use the equation as directed in the following table, observing that the numbers corresponding to the intermediate days and hours are to be found by proportion.

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Sunday.	July 1st	to the	time by	the dial	add.	28. s.
Friday	6th,					4 12
Thursda	y 26th,					6 S.,
Tuesday	v 31st.					64

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

			100 11200101	
First Quarter	2d day, at	t 8	m. after 7	in the morning
Full Moon.,	8th	30	10	at night
Last Quarter	15th	35	8	
				in the morning
				in the afternoon

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits of the Moon will afford opportunities of observation this month, should the weather prove favourable at the respective times: they are calculated for the *first* Meridian of Great Britain; viz.

July 2d, at	11 n	n. after (in the evening
8d	2.	7	
4th,	57 .	7	
5th,	55 .	8	
6th	56 .	9	
7th,	59 .	10	
14th	28 .	4	in the morning
15th,	15 .	5	
16th,	ı.	6	

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day. In addition to the respective times stated in the following table, those for any intermediate days may be found as already directed, and also for many other places, by adding the numbers given under the head of January to those in this table, or subtracting them from each other, as circumstances may require.

TABLE OF TIDES.

	Morning.	Evening	Evening.		
July 1st, a	at 14 m. after 8	37 m. past 6			
6th:	39 11	0 0	1		
		7 4			
		46 7			
		17 0			
		43 3			
		3 7			

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Venus now begins to approach her greatest illumination, but her increased distance from the earth

causes her to be less bright than when only about a fourth part of her disk is enlightened. Her phases now are.

July 1st, { Iluminated part = 10.7345 ' Dark part ... = 1.2655

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

There will be a great many eclipses of the first and second of these Satellites this month, but only one of them will be visible here. The emersion of the first Satellite will take place at 21 m. after 10 at night, on the 5th.

Form of Saturn's Ring.

The form of this ring is subject to a slight variation, sometimes appearing more open than at others. This depends upon the proportions of its axes, which now are.

July 1st, Conjugate axis..... 1.000

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

July 3d, with a in Virgo, at 4 in the morning

9th, 8 in Capricorn, at midnight

30th, ... a in Virgo, 10 in the morning

Other Phenomena.

Saturn will be in conjunction at half-past 11 in the morning of the 2d of this month. Mars will be in conjunction at 45 m. after 1 in the afternoon of the 12th. Mercury will attain his greatest elongation on the 16th. Georgium Sidus will be in opposition at a quarter past 6 in the evening of the 19th. Venus and Saturn will be in conjunction with each other at 3 in the morning of the 26th, and Mercury will be stationary on the 29th.

The following lines were written expressly for Time's Telescope by Mr. RICHARD RYAN, and with them we shall conclude the Occurrences for this month.

"When I remember Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the night-watches."--Ps. lxiii, 6.

When silence reigns, And heav'n ordains The veil of night to fall
On land and sea,
While lovelily
The night-star smiles on all;
Sleep ne'er shall shed
Around my bed
Her soft reviving pow'r,
But, Lord, to thee
My heart shall flee,
And praise thee in that hour.

As some sad stream,
On which the gleam
Of placid moonbeams shine,
Will be this breast,
When there shall rest
Some ray of grace divine;
Oh! hear me now,
Receive my vow,
Each still revolving hour:
Oh! LORD, to thee
My heart shall flee,
And praise thy wondrous pow'r.

The Naturalist's Diary

For JULY 1827.

Now cometh welcome Summer with great strength,
Joyously smiling in high lustihood,
Conferring on us days of longest length,
For rest or labour, in town, field, or wood;
Offering, to our gathering, richest stores
Of varied herbage, corn, cool fruits, and flowers,
As forth they rise from Nature's open pores,
To fill our homesteads, and to deck our bowers;
Inviting us to renovate our health
By recreation; or, by ready hand
And calculating thought, t' improve our wealth:
And so, invigorating all the land,
And all the tenantry of earth or flood,

SUMMER! glowing summer! This is the month of heat and sunshine, of clear, fervid skies, dusty roads,

Cometh the plenteous Summer—full of good.

^{&#}x27;Hone's Every Day Book, vol. i, p. 818.

and shrinking streams; when doors and windows are thrown open, a cool gale is the most welcome of all visitors, and every drop of rain 'is worth its weight in gold." Such is July commonly—such it was in 1825, and such, in a scarcely less degree, in 1826: vet it is sometimes, on the contrary, a very showery month, putting the haymaker to the extremity of his patience, and the farmer upon anxious thoughts for his ripening corn; generally speaking, however, it is the heart of our summer. The landscape presents an air of warmth, dryness, and maturity;—the eye roams over brown pastures, corn fields 'already white to harvest,' dark lines of intersecting hedge-rows, and darker trees, lifting their heavy heads above them. The foliage at this period is rich, full, and vigorous; there is a fine haze cast over distant woods and bosky slopes, and every lofty and majestic tree is filled with a soft shadowy twilight, which adds infinitely to its beauty—a circumstance that has never been sufficiently noticed by either poet or painter. Willows are now beautiful objects in the landscape; they are like rich masses of arborescent silver, especially if stirred by the breeze, their light and fluent forms contrasting finely with the still and sombre aspect of the other trees.

Now is the general season of haymaking. Bands of mowers, in their light trowsers and broad straw hats, are astir long before the fiery eye of the Sun glances above the horizon, that they may toil in the freshness of the morning, and stretch themselves at noon in luxurious ease by trickling waters, and beneath the shade of trees. Till then, with regular strokes and a sweeping sound, the sweet and flowery grass falls before them, revealing, at almost every step, nests of young birds, mice in their cozy domes, and the mossy cells of the humble bee streaming with liquid honey: anon, troops of haymakers are abroad, tossing the green swaths wide to the sun. It is one

of Nature's festivities, endeared by a thousand pleasant memories and habits of the olden days, and not a soul can resist it.

There is a sound of tinkling teams and of waggons relling along lanes and fields the whole country over, aye, even at midnight, till at length the fragrant ricks rise in the farm-yard, and the pale smooth-shaven

fields are left in solitary beauty.

They who know little about it may doen the strong penchant of our poets, and of ourselves, for rural pleasures, mere romance and poette illusion; but if poette beauty alone were concerned, we must still admire harvest-time in the country. The whole land is then an Arcadia, full of simple, healthful, and rejoicing spirits. Overgrown towns and manufactories may have changed, for the worse, the spirit and feelings of our population; in them, 'evil communications may have corrupted good manners:' but in the country at large, there never was a more simpleminded, healthful-hearted, and happy race of people than our present British peasantry. They have cast off, it is true, many of their ancestors' games and merry makings, but they have in no degree lest their soul of mirth and happiness. This is never more conspicuous than in harvest time.

With the exception of a casual song of the lark in a fresh morning, of the blackbird and thrush at sunset, or the monotonous wail of the yellowhammer, the silence of birds is now complete: even the lesser reed-sparrow, which may very properly be called the *English mock-bird*, and which kept up a perpetual clatter with the notes of the sparrow, the swallow, the white-throat, &c. in every hedge-bottom, day and

night, has ceased.

Boys will now be seen in the evening twilight, with match, gunpowder, &c., and green boughs for selfdefence, busy in storming the paper-built castles of wasps, the larvæ of which furnish anglers with store of excellent baits. Spring-flowers have given place to a very different class. Climbing plants mantle and festoon every hedge. The wild hop, the bryony, the clematis or traveller's joy, the large white convolvulus, whose bold yet delicate flowers will display themselves to a very late period of the year-vetches. and white and yellow ladies-bedstraw-invest almost every bush with their varied beauty, and breathe on the passer-by their faint summer sweetness. The Campanula rotundifolia, the hare-bell of poets, and the blue-bell of botanists, arrests the eye on every dry bank, rock, and wayside, with its beautiful cerulean bells. There too we behold wild scabiouses, mallows, the woody nightshade, wood-betony, and centaury; the red and white-striped convolvulus also throws its flowers under your feet; corn fields glow with whole armies of scarlet poppies, cockle, and the rich azure plumes of viper's-bugloss; even thistles, the curse of Cain, diffuse a glow of beauty over wastes and barren places. Some species, particularly the musk thistles, are really noble plants, wearing their formidable arms, their silken vest, and their gorgeous crimson tufts of fragrant flowers issuing from a coronal of interwoven down and spines, with a grace which casts far into the shade many a favourite of the garden.

But whoever would taste all the sweetness of July, let him go, in pleasant company, if possible, into heaths and woods: it is there, in her uncultured haunts, that Summer now holds her court. The stern castle, the lowly convent, the deer and the forester have vanished thence many ages; yet Nature still casts round the forest-lodge, the gnarled oak and lovely mere, the same charms as ever. The most hot and sandy tracts, which we might naturally imagine would now be parched up, are in full glory. The Erica tetralix, or bell-heath, the most beautiful of our indigenous species, is now in bloom, and has converted the brown bosom of the waste into one wide sea of crimson; the air is charged with its

honied odour. The dry, elastic turf glows, not only with its flowers, but with those of the wild thyme, the clear blue milkwort, the yellow asphodel, and that ourious plant the sundew, with its drops of inexhaustible liquor sparkling in the fiercest sun like There wave the cotton-rush, the tall diamonds. fox-glove, and the taller golden mullein. There creep the various species of heath-berries, cranberries. bilberries, &c., furnishing the poor with a source of profit, and the rich of luxury. What a pleasure it is to throw ourselves down beneath the verdant screen of the beautiful fern, or the shade of a venerable oak. in such a scene, and listen to the summer sounds of bees, grasshoppers, and ten thousand other insects, mingled with the more remote and solitary cries of the pewit and the curlew! Then, to think of the coach-horse, urged on his sultry stage, or the ploughboy and his teem, plunging in the depths of a burning fallow, or of our ancestors, in times of national famine, plucking up the wild fern-roots for bread, and what an enhancement of our own luxurious ease¹!

But woods, the depths of woods, are the most delicious retreats during the fiery noons of July. The great azure campanulas, or Canterbury bells, are there in bloom, and, in chalk or limestone districts, there are also now to be found those curiosities, the bee and fly orchises. The soul of John Evelyn well might eavy us a wood lounge at this period.

All the cool freshness of the humid air.

the walk by the border of the brook chiming over its shadow-chequered pebbles, the green and breezy canopy above us, and luxurious thoughts in our hearts, such as a living poetess alludes to in the following sonnet on Newstead Woods:

It is a fact not known to every juvenile lover of nature, that a transverse section of a tern-root presents a miniature picture of an oak tree which no painter could rival.

NEWSTEAD WOODS.

How pleasantly the Sun, this summer's day,
Shines through the covert of these leafy woods,
Where quiet, like a gentle spirit, broods
Unstartled, save by the continuous lay
Of birds, the stirring west-wind, and the play
Of a small pebbly stream. 'The columbine
Shines in its dark blue lustre, and the twine
Of rose and honeysuckle bowers the way.
Leng of these arching trees, the softened aky,
My memory's tablet will a trace retain;
How 'mong the sylvan knolls a bard might lie,
And cast aside the world's corroding chain;
A monarch in the world of poesy,—
Radenizened in fance's free domain.

MARY HOWITT.

Throughout the month, the halloo and the clapper of the bird-boy, a classical being since the days of Giles Bloomfield, are heard amongst the fields of ripening corn; and towards the end of it corn-harvest commences.

SUMMER and the POET.

Poet.

Oh! golden, golden summer, What is it thou hast done? Thou hast chased each vernal reamer With thy fiercely burning sun.

Glad was the cuckoo's hail;—
Where may we hear it now?
Thou hast driven the nightingale
From the waving hawthorn bough.

Thou hast shrunk the mighty river;
Thou hast made the small brook flee;
And the light gales faintly quiver
On the dark and shadowy tree.

Spring waked her tribes to bloom, And on the green sward dance; Thou hast smitten them to the tomb With thy consuming glance.

And now Autumn cometh on, Singing midst shocks of corn, Thou hastenest to be gone, As if joy might not be begre. Summer.

And dost thee of me complain,
Thou who, with dreamy eyes,
In the forest moss hast lain,
Praising my silvery skies?

Thou, who didst deem divine
The shrill cicada's tune,
When the odours of the pine
Gushed through the woods at noon?

I have run my fervid race;

I have run my fervid race;

I have iwrought my task once more; I have filled each fruitful place With a plenty that runs o'er.

There is treasure for the garner; There is honey with the bee; And; oh! thou thankless scorner, There's a parting boon for thee.

Soon, as in misty sadness
Sere Autumn yields his reign,
Winter, with stormy madness,
Shall chase thee from the plain.

Then shall these scenes elysian

Bright in thy spirit burn,

And each summer thought and vision

Be thine till I return.

W. HOWITT.

As summer advances, the vocal music of the groves is lessened, and in this month may be said to cease altogether—if we except the chirping of the wren and two or three small birds. The yellow-hammer forms its nest and lays its eggs very late in the year, it being quite the end of June, or the beginning of July, before any number of them are found.

The Black Tern.—Lammense flocks of these birds appeared in Bottisham and Swaffham fens in the summer of 1824. Many of the specimens which came under my observation (observes Mr. Jenyns), differed considerably from each other in their plumage, particularly with respect to the colours about the head and throat. According to Temminck, these parts, which in the winter are much varied with pure white, become in the breeding season wholly black, or at

least of a very dark ash-colour like the rest of the body; but in some of these individuals no such alteration had taken place, the forehead, space between the bill and the eyes, throat, and forepart of the neck. being as white as at other times of the year, so that this periodical change of plumage cannot be looked upon as constant. Possibly however it may be confined to one sex. On the 8th of July a nest of this species was taken, which was perfectly flat, placed on the ground, about six inches in diameter, and composed of roots and dry grass, which appeared to have been trodden down so as to be rendered quite firm and compact. The eggs were two in number, of an olive-green colour, thickly spotted and blotched with deep brown, especially towards the larger end. These had been incubated some days. Montagu observes that this bird is known, in some parts of Cambridgeshire, by the name of car-swallow. - (Ornithology of Cambridgeshire.)

Among the insects of this month may be mentioned Cossonus Tardii, so named after the gentleman who first discovered it in Ireland; it is propagated under the decayed bark of old hollies, and is figured in Mr. Curtis's British Entomology, Plate 59. month also produces the Anthedium manicatum (Pl. 61). a bee not uncommon round London, which strips the wool or tomentum off various plants to construct its nest, generally formed in hollow trees. Plate 63 exhibits the sexes of a new water-beetle (Acilius caliginosus, Curtis), taken in considerable abundance at Whittlesea Mere, Huntingdonshire, at the end of the month: in Plate 68 are represented the sexes of a moth from the same neighbourhood, and also the caterpillars which are found and feed upon the burrreed and also upon Britomus umbellatus; they are full grown about the end of July and the beginning of August, when they attach themselves to a leaf, where they form a regular and nearly oval cocoon, semitransparent, and composed externally of their own

hairs: it is a curious fact, that the moths appear be-fore many of the larves have begun their cocoons, which is the case also with Hypogymna dispar. Habner's work the male alone is figured, and no representation of the caterpillar has ever before been given. Obrium cantharinum (Pl. 91), a beetle new to Britain, has been taken in this and the following month, at Great Coggeshall, and near Wansteadhouse. Essex. During this month, a very rare genus of water-beetles is found at Whittlesea Mere. Huntingdonshire: in Pl. 95 the Hydaticus cinereus, Linn. is figured; only two specimens of which have at present been discovered in Britain. The mountains of Perthshire produce this month the local Helobia Gyllenhall. see Pl. 103. The author also detected, in the isles of Bute and Arran, a moth new to Britain, which he has named Charissa operaria. In Plate 109 is represented the raved veneer (Crambus radiellus), taken on the summit of Ben Lawers. The New Forest produces, at this period, a large new moth (Alcis sericearia, Curtis), of which there are only five or six known.

At the end of July, and in the following month, soveral locusts are to be found; and amongst them a very rare species has been captured near Christchurch, Hampshire, which has been named Acrida Bingleis (Pl. 82), in honour of the late Rev. W. Bingley. This species has been confounded, in the Entomelogical Transactions, with A. venucivora, a very fine species, discovered near Rochester by Professor Henslow, at the end of August. It is employed by the Swedish peasantry to destroy warts, from which circumstance it receives its name. Leptocerus ochraceus, Curtis (Pl. 57), an elegantly formed insect, is found during this and the following month upon the coast of Suffolk, and even upon the paling of the Regent's Park.

Lepidoptera.—The best method of obtaining the finest specimens of the Lepidoptera is to collect the Y 2

larve, or caterpillars, and feed them in cares on the plants on which they are found: the larvæ are obtained by beating the hedges and the trees early in the morning, as most of them feed in the night, and netire soon after sun-rise; they are, therefore, but seldom to be met with during the day. Caterpillars are found in Europe from the spring until the autumn of the year; and some few live through the winter, even in this state: they, however, decrease in bulk, but are still attached to the stems of trees: on the rising of the sap and the budding of the trees they resume their. usual vigour, feeding on the more tender shoots, and retiring to the pupa state before the trees are in leaf. We make this observation, because in tropical countries, where trees are ever green, many larvæ, ne doubt, remain in this state during the rainy season. Most larvæ are obtained in England about the middle of the spring and the end of summer, or in May and September.

Many of the larvæ of moths feed on the bodies of decayed trees, and others on the roots of grass; these, when obtained, should be put into cages, and constantly supplied with fresh grass, that the roots may furnish them with food; decayed wood must also be put into the cages, as many species form their cocoons of it. Those persons who may have the leisure to make accurate drawings of the larvæ, will render a most essential service to natural history by so doing; and any little observation connected with their economy should be noted.—Samouelle's General Directions for Collecting and Preserving Exotic Insects

and Crustacea.

Bees begin to expel and kill drones, and flying ants quit their nests. For some very curious particulars of the economy of ants, see our former volumes.

An interesting account of that very useful bird, the American ant-catcher, we extract from Lucien Buonaparte's splendid work already quoted. The ant-

estchers may justly be enumerated amongst the benefactors of mankind, as they dwell in regions where the ants are so numerous, large, and voracious, that without their agency, co-operating with that of the Myrmecophaga jubata, and a few other ant-eating enadrapeds, the produce of the soil would inevitably be destroyed in those fertile parts of the globe. The ant-hills of South America are often more than twenty feet in diameter, and many feet in height. These wonderful edifices are thronged with two-hundredfold more inhabitants, and are proportionally far more numerous, than the small ones with which we are fa-Breeding in vast numbers, and multiplying with great celerity and profusion, the increase of these insects would soon enable them to swarm over the greatest extent of country, were not their propagation. and diffusion limited by the active exertions of that part of the animal creation which continually subsist by their destruction.

The ant-catchers run rapidly upon the ground, alighting but seldom on trees, and then on the lowest branches; they generally associate in small flocks, feed exclusively on insects, and most commonly frequent the large ant-hills before mentioned. Several different species of these birds are often observed to live in perfect harmony on the same mound, which, as it supplies an abundance of food for all, removes one of the causes of discord which is most universally operative throughout animated nature. On the same principle we might explain the comparative mildness of herbivorous animals, as well as the ferocity and solitary habits of carnivorous, and particularly of rapacious animals, which repulse all others from their society, and forbid even their own kind to approach. the limits of their sanguinary domain.

These birds never soar high in the air, nor do they extend their flight to any great distance without alighting to rest, in consequence of the shortness of their wings and tail, which, in fact, seem to be seldem employed for any other purpose than to assist them in running along the ground, or in leaping from branch to branch of bushes and low trees, an exercise in which they display remarkable activity. Some species, like the woodpeckers, climb the trunks of trees in pursuit of insects; and it would appear, from their restless habits and almost constant motion, that their limited excursions are entirely attributable to the want of more ample provision for flight. The ant-catchers are never found in settled districts, where their favourite insects are generally less abundant; but they live in the dense and remote parts of forests, far from the abodes of man and civilization; they also dislike open and wet countries.

The note of the ant-catchers is as various as the species are different, but it is always very remarkable and peculiar. Their flesh is oily, and disagreeable to the taste; and, when the bird is opened, a very offensive odour is diffused, from the remains of half-digested ants, and other insects contained in the sto-

mach.

Scotian Botany for July.

On our mosses and highland hills, the heaths are now in full flower; as Erica ceneria, and tetralix (the fine leaved and cross leaved heaths), and the common ling or heather (Calkina vulgarie): the well-known and universally admired blossoms of these plants. adorn what would otherwise appear a dreary waste. In general they occur of different shades of red, but occasionally varieties of all these species are to be found with white flowers. The last named plant is sometimes employed by gardeners for edging walks, for which purpose it answers yory well, and in many places of the highlands it is much used for thatching houses. They are all eagerly sought after, when in flower, by the bees; the bonev collected from these plants is very rich in flavour, but of a darker colour than ordinary. In those marshy places which occur so frequently in our mosses, the round-leaved sundew (Drosers rotundifolia) greatly abounds; and occasionally the long leaved species, and the greater sundew (D. longifolia and Anglica). The round leaved sundew, which is by far the most common, has reddish-coloured leaves about the size of a sixpence. Their upper surface is thickly set with hair-like prolongations inclining towards the centre of the leaf, and sustaining small glands, which are constantly covered with a pellucid viscous liquid. In the morning, each of these glands supports a large dew-drop, which in the sun-beam imparts to the plant a beautifully sparkling appearance. Its stem is from one to three inches in length, is destinute of leaves, and bears upon its summit a few white flowers: many of the little insects, which wander over this plant, are retained by: the viscous liquid secreted by the glands before mentioned, and by the decomposition of their bodies, nourishment is said to he afforded to the plant. This may be one use of these glands, but . heaides this, they appear to have other no less important offices to perform. The Droseras are evidently formed for a marshy situation, and water in considerable quantity seems indispensable to their well-being; may not this secretion, therefore, tend to refard the speedy evaporation of the water from their surface, and thereby, even in the drought of summer, retain sufficient moisture. to supply their wants? Be this as it may, their leaves are found spangled with dew, when not a drop remains upon the surround-.

ing herbage.

The marsh andromeda (A. polifolia) and Lancashire asphodel (Narthecium ossifragum) likewise occur in mossy ground; the former is a small ever-green shrub, adorned with elegant dreeping rose-coloured flowers, and the latter is a yellow-flowering perennial plant with ensiform leaves. By the sides of mossy ditches the little creeping marsh pennywort (Hydrocotyle valyaris) with its small reddish flowers is common. The ivy-leaved crow-: foot (Ranunculus hederaceus), lesser duckweed (Lemna minor), and the Callitriche aquatica, water star-wort, all cover the water. of these ditches with a verdant mantle. The white flowers of the first-mentioned are showy and elegant, but those of the Lemna and Callitriche are exceedingly small and grow in the axils of their leaves; in the Lemna, the flower consists of a membranabeous envelope, containing one style and two stigmata, but their. principal mode of increase is by little buds, or gemmæ, which are produced from the sides of their orbicular and succulent frond, or leaf. In the Callitriche, the flowers are monæceous, the fertile plant having a germ terminated by two styles, and the sterile one a single filament supporting a round yellow anther. marshy places, the Pedicularis palustris and sylvatica, the marsh and dwarf looseworts, procumbent and spreading plants, with rose-coloured flowers, may be seen: the blue flowers of the Verenica becabunga (brooklime), and the elegant marsh scorpion-grass Forget-me-not (Myosotis palustris), are common. The marsh cinquefoil (Comarum palustre), the gaudy yellow iris (Iris pecudacorus), the edoriferous meadow-sweet (Spiraa ulmaria), the deadly cow-bane, or long-leaved water hemlock (Cicuta virosa), and the great wild valerian (Valeriana officinalis), are all in great abundance. The roots of the valerian have been long held in much esteem by physicians, and prescribed by them in nervous disorders; the plant may be readily recognised by its head of pale red flowers supported on a stem three or four feet in height. Its couline leaves are opposite to each other, all pinnated, and their divisions: are lance-shaped and servated. Its reots are fibrous and matted, of a brown colour, and feild smell; its taste is warm and a permatic; especially when the soil upon which it vegetates is dry: cats are exceedingly fond of its root; and after having exten of it they soon become affected with symptoms resembling inchriety.

By the side of old heases, walls, &c. the great nettle (Urtica dieces) is common; this, though most frequently a dieceous plant, not rarely hides, as it were, a few flowers of the other sex to secure against accidents to the production of its seed: when young, the nottle is used by many as a potherb, and, when its decoction is arised with salt, it forms a good rennet: boiled with alum, it lias been employed as a yellow dye, and its stalk has been manufactured into a substance similar in appearance to hemp.

Our pastures and waysides are now adorned with the yellow flowers of different species of Hypericum, or St. John's-wort, particularly the Perforatum humifusum and pulchrum, the perforated, trailing, and small-upright St. John's-wort. The red flowers also of the crame's bill' (Goramum robertianum, rotundifolium, pusium, and dissectum), the stinking, round-leaved, small-flowered, and jagged-leaved species: on sandy soils the Erodhum cicutarium, the hemlock-leaved stork's-bill, the large showy flowers of the Goramum prutonse (crow-foot-leaved crane's-bill). Lycopsis arounds, small bugloss, and Echium vulgare, viper's bugloss, with their blue flowers, variegate the scene. On waste places many species of Galliums or bedstraw, Ceraniums or chickweed; and spurreys (Spergulas), together with the wood-sage (Teccorium soordoma) and the medicinal agrimony (Agrimoma cupatoria), are not unfrequent.

On the hills and mountains are to be found several species of cudweed, principally the Gnaphalium dioioum, minimum, and germanicum, the mountain, least, and the common cudweeds. The blue flowered sheep-bit (Jasonia mantana), the hairy, the biting stone-crop and orpine (Sedum villosum, acre, and telephium). The little rose-coloured flowers of the Azalia procumbers, the Thalictrums or meadow rues, the butter-worts (Pinysicula culgaris and lusitanica), the little red Silene acculis (mose campion), the spacious globe-flower (Trollius Europæus), and the creeping cloud-berry (Rubus epamamorus), which is used by the highland proople, and affords an agreeable food.

The Nuphar luceola and Nymphas alba variegate and adorn our lakes with their broad leaves and large yellow and white flowers: these, like many others, open their bosoms to the rising sun, and in the evening, when he sets, fold up their petals and betake them-

serves, as it were, to repose; and by so doing, we see an admirable and simple contrivance for approximating the anthera to the stigma, besides preserving their internal parts from the effects of wet and cold.

To the HEATH-BELL of SCOTLAND. Come little flower, the Scotsman's toast, And pretty Highland lassie's boast; Worn in the cap of warrior wight, When he goes onward to the fight, And bares his shining battle-blade :: For native land and cottage maid: Worn in the bosom of the lass Of many a hill or mountain-pass; Who joy, as token they are true, To sport the bit of faithful blue; Transplanted from its bed of heath To bloom pure nature's breast aneath: Come, little flower, I'll pluck thee now To twine about my Anna's brow; For in thy meek and mountain dress Thou'lt add unto her loveliness; And seem to one who owns her rule, Like her, so simply beautiful! Come, little flower; on hill or dell Grows not a bud I love so well, As thee, old Scotia's sweet blue-bell!

A. M. TEMPLETON, JUN.

Thunder.—It was formerly the custom during thunder to invoke the aid of St. Barbara. The great bell at Malmsbury Abbey, called St. Adelm's bell, was also rung to drive away thunder and lightning. A similar practice was also resorted to in France, particularly at St. Germain's. In Herefordshire, says Mr. Aubrey, they lay a piece of iron on the barrel to keep the beer from souring, and the like is done in Germany.—Aubrey MS., A.D. 1686.

Lightning.—The antients had singular notions respecting lightning: they regarded it with a superstitions horror of which we can have but a faint conception, and as a visible manifestation of divine wrath: honce whatever was struck with it, was looked upon as sacred (in its ceremonial sense of devoted or accused), and separated from human uses. The

corpse of the person struck by lightning was never moved from its place; where it fell, it lay, and, with every thing pertaining to it, was covered with earth, and encircled by a rail or mound.

A Rainbow at Sea.

Among the beauties and wonders of this month, the many-coloured bow of Iris, frequently seen after showers, is a phenomenon well worthy of our attention. Every one has seen a rainbow, at least on terra firma, but a 'rainbow at sea' is a novelty to many: here is the picture of one, only inferior to the original,—a perfect chef-d'œuvre, glowing with 'sky-tinctured' beauty.

Overhead a rainbow bursting through
The scattering clouds, shone, spanning the dark sea,
Resting its bright base on the quivering blue;
And all within its arch appeared to be
Clearer than that without, and its wide hue
Waxed broad and waving, like a banner free,
Then changed like to a bow that's bent.

The airy child of vapour and the Sun,
Brought forth in purple, cradled in vermilion,
Baptized in molten gold, and swathed in dun.
Glittering like crescents o'er a Turk's pavilion,
And blending every colour into one.

BYRON.

Excessive Heat at Lisbon in July 1821.

At length, we are fairly driven away from Lisbon by the tremendous heat of the weather: nothing but a native or a salamander can exist here at this season. My child is scarcely recognizable, from the incessant stings of the mosquitos in every part of his body, nor am I in a much better condition: a perpetual succession of restless and feverish nights, occasioned by the persecution of these horrid insects, is no longer endurable. I formerly used to fancy every thing connected with winter cheerless and undesirable, and was fully persuaded that I should enjoy with delight a perpetual summer: now, when experi-

ence forces me to open my eyes to the truth, I am but too well convinced of the benefit and charm of a change of seasons, such as we are accustomed to see at home; and while I cast my dazzled eyes upon the intolerable glare of blue sky and water, heightened by barren rocks, and faint beneath the scorching beams of the sun 'shining in his strength,' I remember, with a sigh, the cheerful hearth, the closedrawn curtains, and the music of the kettle 'singing on the hob,' which I used to enjoy during the winter in our English cottage residence.—Joanna Baillie.

POETICAL PICTURES of SUNSET and EVENING.

To the Setting Sun.

I heard not thy gigantic tread
Across the heavenly plain,
So swift thy footsteps passed and sped
To reach their goal again;
Yet, lifting up my ravished eye,
I tracked thy paths of majesty.
Oh, splendid sight! thou long shalt dwell,
With many a sun so fair,
Deep, deep, in memory's sacred dell,
Fresh in thy grandeur there:
And oft, to cheer the gloom of night,

An Evening at the Lakes.

Come o'er me in thy pomp of light.

Twas at that sober hour when the light of day is receding,
And from surrounding things the hues wherewith day had adorned
them

Fade like the hopes of youth, till the beauty of earth is departed:

Pensive, though not in thought, I stood at the window, beholding

Mountain, and lake, and vale; the valley disrobed of its verdure;

Derwent retaining yet from eve a glassy reflection,

Where his expanded breast, then still and smooth as a mirror, Under the woods reposed; the hills, that, calm and majestic, Lifted their heads in the silent sky, from far Glaramar,

Bleacrag, and Maidenmawr, to Grizedal, and westernmost Withop.

Dark and distinct they rose. The clouds had gathered above them.

High in the middle air, huge, purple, pillowy masses,

While in the west beyond was the last pale tint of the twilight, Green as a stream in the glen whose pure and chrysolite waters Flow o'er a schistous bed, and serene as the age of the righteous.

Evenina.

Oh. Hesperus! thou bringest all good things; Home to the weary, to the hungry, cheer; To the young bird the parents' brooding wings. The welcome stall to the o'erlaboured steer: Whate'er of peace about our hearth-stone clings, Is gathered round us by thy look of rest.

BYRON.

To Evening.

[From Slatter's Rural Pictures.] Now twilight slumbers on the hill. The air is hushed, and all is still. Save distant fall of tinkling rill. Or fountain flowing pleasantly.

O. pensive eve! a weary wight. I come to woo the calm delight Thou stealest o'er the brow of night, With heart yet beating heavily.

I would you busy world forego. Where avarice scowls with scornful brow. And folly hurls her shafts at woe, Nor join the joyless revelry.

Now, while the bat wheels round and round Her circuit o'er the dusky ground, And echo listens to the sound Of curfew tolling solemnly:

O teach me, by the murmuring shore, My lowly orisons to pour, And oft to number and adore The beauties of thy scenery:

But, through the solemn winding glade, I see thy planet, full displayed, Come forth to cheer the darksome shade, And soothe my wayward fantasy;

While o'er yon hills, whence through the air The simple sheep-bell sounds afar, I see thee on thy shadowy car,

Thy last smile darting peacefully:

I would thy flight were yet delayed, But wish in vain; life's joys displayed, Just please a moment ere they fade, For ever gliding rapidly.

An Italian Evening.

At midnight, on the blue and moonlit deep,
The song and oar of Adria's gondoner,
By distance mellowed, o'er the waters sweep;
"Tis sweet to see the evening star appear;
"Tis sweet to listen as the night-winds creep
From leaf to leaf.

BYRON.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

July.

Rainy.—Stormy.—Winds light and variable.—

Fair, mild, and agreeable.—Gloomy.

The thermometer ranges this month in the shade from 78 in the morning to 90 in the afternoon. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta 5 h. 93 m., sets 6 h. 37 m.—Meats indifferent; mangoes and mangoe fish go out this month; asparagus in perfection; potatoes getting indifferent; fish, viz. the moonjee, the rowe, the cutlah, the quoye, the sowle, the mangoor, the chingree, the tangrah, and the chunnah, are procurable all the year round; the hilsa (or sable) fish comes in this month; becktee scarcely procurable, and not good. The hilsa fish (sable) are now two for one rupee, of the largest size; they will be four for a rupee in the course of next month, which is the lowest - price they are sold at. This fish is delicious eating, either boiled, baked, or roasted; but it is by some people reckoned very unwholesome, although there is no just foundation for this supposition. The hilsa, when cured with tamarinds, is excellent for breakfast.—Pine-apples, custard-apples, and guavas, continue in season,—Rainy; heavy rains.

AUGUST.

THIS month, called Sextilis, the sixth of the Romulean year, took its name from the place in which it stood; it received the name of Augustus in honour of Augustus, who, in this month, obtained the consulate before the time generally prescribed, and who triumphed thrice over Egypt. Its tutelar divinity was Ceres. The sign of this month is Virgo.

Remarkable Days

In AUGUST 1827.

1.—LAMMAS DAY.

This was antiently loaf mass, it being customary for the Saxons to offer an oblation of new bread on this day, as the first fruits of the harvest.—On Lammas Towers, see T. T. for 1825, p. 208. This day is also called St. Peter in Vinculis, from the following circumstance as recorded by a Catholic writer:—

Heroff, surnamed Agrippa, having seized St. Peter, threw him into prison, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; two soldiers being placed to guard the apostle. An angel came into the prison, caused the chains of St. Peter to fall from him, and saved him from approaching death. The festival of this day was instituted to commemorate this event.-Eudoxa, wife of the emperor Theodosius the younger. received at Jerusalem the two chains with which St. Peter had been bound. One she sent to Rome, and the other to Constantinople; and the former is still kept with great veneration at Rome, as the chain with which the prince of the apostles was bound, by the order of Nero. Many miracles have been worked, according to Baronius, by touching these marvellons chains.

*2. 1100.—WILLIAM RUFUS SHOT.

The FLIGHT of the FATAL ARROW.

Bold Robin Hood was an archer good,
As our modern legends tell;
But, in older times, say border rhymes,
Wat Tyrrel could shoot as well;
And the cloth-yard shafts that once he bore,
Were stained, they sing, with a monarch's gore.

Manuscript of the Chase, 1672.

The Norman hath thrown his state aside,
And buckled the spur to his heel;
Hath bidden his prickers onwards ride
Where, 'midst glen and brake, the tall deer hide,
Or the prowling fox doth steal;
For none, when the sportsman's crycheerly would ring,
Was blither to follow than he, that red king.

Of Poictou, Guienne^a, he thought not now More than of leaf or rustling bough; And little he recked of crusader knight, Of the soldan's arm, or the holy tight; Of the golden cargo shipped for the brave, That rode on the breast of the subject wave; For Rufus' heart was in forest glade,

And it joyed as upleaped the hind; And purchased town, and crosslet blade, Were held as light as courtier's trade, Or feather that danced in the wind,

But the chase is o'er; the long-haired hound, Whose bay woke blithe echo before, Has pulled the branch-antiered prey to ground, And the hunter from jaded steed doth bound, To reward the pack with his gore³.

Yet none but the king is up, and he, That Gaul, the flower of archery, For all did Walter Tyrrel know By unerring shaft and faithful bow;

^{&#}x27;William, the son of the Norman Conqueror, was called Rufus, or the red king, from the colour of his hair.

² Places purchased by his gold of William of Poictiers and the Duke

of Guienne, to enable them to join the crusaders.

3 When the beast is slain, the huntsman, with his horn, windeth the fall of the beast, and then the whole company comes up, blowing their horns in triumph for such a conquest: among them, the skilfullest opens the prize, rewards the hounds with what properly belongs to them, for their future encouragement; for which purpose, the huntsmen dip bread in the skin and blood of the beast, to give to the hounds.

—Fairfax.

The rest, so hotly went the chase, Have failed to win the foremost place; And struggling bound, and panting steed, Tell how they quailed at hour of need.

The king on his courser's neck has thrown
The now undirected rein;
From saddle has leaped—his favourite throne,

To await his toil-beat train; When, startled by the monarch's tread, Up bounded a proud stag, and fled.

'Shoot, Tyrrel, shoot!' red Rufus cries,
'See how the rushing wild-one flies,
Tossing his crowned top on high,
Vain of such badge of majesty!
Shoot, Tyrrel, shoot! 'tis worth your art,
A ransom for that noble hart!'

Swifter than would those words he said, The bow has sprung, the shaft has fled;

On, on, the weapon speeds:
Was Walter false? or did his hand
For once refuse his eyes' command?—
Behold, a monarch bleeds!
That ill-made aim, or fatal tree,
Tell truths of faithless archery'.

A monarch bleeds! nor crown, nor name,
Nor fearless soul, nor warrior fame,
Again can ope those death-dimmed eyes;
A monarch bleeds! a monarch dies!—
Unseen, unpitied, and alone—
E'en he, the startled Gaul, is flown;
Fled, in dismay, to join the brave,
Where the broad Christian's banners wave;
Deeming the Paynim battle-flood
May wash away a monarch's blood².

And he that rode so blithe at morn, A king, 'midst proud array, Nor deemed the music of the horn, So sweet it went, was but in seorn Of his so little day;

As William dismounted after a chase, Tyrrel let fly an arrow at a stag; it glanced from a tree, struck the king in the breast, and instantly killed him.

² Tyrrel, fearful of suspicions which, perhaps, he was conscious of incurring, without informing the royal attendants, gained the sea-shore, embarked for France, and proceeded to Jerusalem, as a penance for his involuntary crime.—Mavor.

All that remains of him, that king,
Is in the damp vault withering,
Borne there by no officious care,
But by the humble labourer.
No royal tear to wet his tomb,
No noble pomp to grace his doom;
His bier a cart; a peasant bred,
The mourner at his funeral bed;
The traveller marks his end alone
By that same peasant's cot, and by a humble stone'.

A. M. TEMPLETON, JUN.

*5.—our lady of the snow.

We are informed that the solemnization of this festival was owing to a miracle. When Liberius was pontiff, a patrician or Roman nobleman finding himself childless, resolved, with his wife's approbation. to make the blessed Virgin his sole heiress. The vow being made with great devotion, their principal concern, in the next place, was to employ their inheritance conformably to our Lady's will, and accordingly they applied themselves to fasting, praying, giving alms to the poor, and visiting the sick, to know her The Virgin at length appeared to each of pleasure. them in a dream, and told them 'it was her and her son's will, that they should employ their effects in erecting a church for her on a particular part of the Mons Esquilinus, which they should find covered with snow.' The pious husband first communicated the revelation to his wife, who told him, with great surprise, that she had had the same revelation that very night. But supposing the two dreams had not proved alike, an excess of zeal would have been sufficient to have given them all the conformity that was requisite. These two devotees went immediately and declared their dreams to the pope, who perceived he was a

^{&#}x27;The body of William was found by the country people, and conveyed, in a cart, to Winchester, where it was interred. The person who carried the corpse was named Purkis; and some of his descendants at this very day reside near the spot, where, too, a rude stone is pointed out as commemorative of 'the flight of the fatal arrow.'

third man in the revelation, for his holiness had been favoured with the same vision. It was no longer questioned but that Heaven was engaged in this af-The pontiff assembled the clergy together, and there was a solemn procession to Mount Esquilinus. on purpose to find out whether the miracle were real or not; when the place specified in the dream was found covered with snow. The ground was exactly of a suitable extent to erect a church upon, which was afterwards called Liberius's Basilica. and St. Mary ad præsepe (because the manger, which was used as a cracke for our Lady, was brought thither from Bethlehem), and is now called St. Mary Major. Every festival-day the commemoration of this miracle is revived, by letting fall white jessamine leaves after so artificial a manner as to imitate the falling of snow upon the ground .- Picart.

6.—TRANSFIGURATION.

This festival, in remembrance of our Lord's transfiguration on the Mount, was instituted by Pope Calixtus in 1455.—It is the custom in the churches of France to offer fresh grapes on the altar on this day; the priest blesses the grapes, and then takes two or three, and squeezes the juice into the communion cup.

7.—NAME OF JESUS.

This day, previously to the reformation, was assigned to Donatus: our reformers gave it its present appropriation.

10.—SAINT LAWRENCE.

Saint Lawrence was by birth a Spaniard, and flourished about the middle of the third century. He was laid upon a gridiron, and broiled till he died, August 10th, 258.

12. 1762 - KING GEORGE IV BORN.

15.—ASSUMPTION OF B. V. M.

This is a festival in the Greek and Romish churches in honour of the supposed miraculous ascension of the Virgin Mary into heaven.—See our former volumes.

*23. 1813.—ALEXANDER WILSON DIED,

At Philadelphia, while on the eve of completing the 'American Ornithology,' one of the most splendid undertakings that has ever been projected by a single, solitary, friendless, poor, and almost destitute individual. He was born at Paisley, in the year 1766. His education was more liberal than that of many in similar circumstances, for his father, who was a weaver, intending his son for one of the learned professions, gave him as good an education as he could afford. He lost his mother in early life; and the determination of the parent, with the hopes of the son, were both frustrated, by a second marriage, and the expenses of a young family. From his 13th to his 18th year, the time which he served as an apprenticed weaver, Wilson conducted himself with much steadiness and attention to business; but his eager passion for reading absorbed most of his time after he became his own master, and left him in a state of constant penury. In the year 1786 he gave up his occupation. and travelled the country as a pedlar. In 1790 he settled again in Paisley, and published a volume of poems, and a journal of his excursions, which meeting with poor success, involved him further in pecuniary difficulties. Tired of a country in which the efforts of his genius had been abortive, he resolved, in the year 1794 or 1795, to embark for America, which his warm fancy and independent spirit had taught him to regard as the land of liberty. To procure money for his passage he laboured with incessant industry, and, having accumulated a sufficient sum, he took his departure. He settled in the state of Pennsylvania, where he remained four or five years as a teacher, and was afterwards employed about the same length of time as a land-surveyor. In pursuit

of subjects for his 'American Ornithology,' he actually traversed a great part of the United States. He killed the birds, drew their figures, and described them.—A continuation of Wilson's splendid work, by Lucien Buonaparte, is now in course of publication.

24.—st. bartholomew.

Saint Bartholomew, apostle, preached in Lycaonia, in farther India, and in Armenia: in this latter country he was flaved alive, after having been whipped with iron rods; he was afterwards beheaded. According to others, he was crucified with his head downwards. He was a fisherman, and a native of Galilee. By some it is pretended that he threw down the idol Ashteroth, and that he converted Polemen, with the inhabitants of twelve towns. St. Bartholomew is said to have had black and curly hair, a fair face, large eyes, and a straight nose, with a long grey beard: he was of a middle size, and always clad in white; according to some writers, he never wore out his clothes, and he had worn the same dress for six and twenty years. The devil asserted of this apostle (according to Ribadeneira) that he said his prayers a hundred times in the day, and a hundred times in the night; that he had a voice as shrill and clear as a trumpet; that he was attended by angels; that he spoke all languages; and that he knew every thing that passed in his own, as well as in the most distant countries. The relics of St. Bartholomew were inclosed in a leaden coffin, and thrown into the sea; but they were too buoyant to sink, and consequently floated on the waves to the isle of Lipari, whence they were transferred to Beneventum, and afterwards to Rome. Saint Bartholomew is represented with a large knife in his hand; and sometimes attached to a cross, with his head downwards.-An elaborate article on the Massacre of Bartholomew will be found in the Edinburgh Review, No. 87. See also T. T. for 1826, p. 200.

Don Leucadio Doblado, in his excellent' Letters on

Spain, affords us an amusing illustration of this day. It is not, he observes, to record any external circumstance connected with this church festival, which, in fact, is scarcely distinguished by any peculiar se-lemnity, that I take notice of it, but for a private superstitious practice which strikes me as a most curious medification of one used by the pious housewives in the days of Augustus.

Intermittent fevers, especially the Tertian and Quartan, are very common in most parts of Andalasia. The season when they chiefly attack the inhabitants is summer; and whether the unbounded use which all sorts of people, but particularly the poor, make of grapes and melons, contributes to the production of the disease, or whether the mere coincidence of the two facts is, as usual, taken for cause and effect, it is an established epinion in this part of the country that, if fruit is not the original source of the ague, an abstinence from this kind of food is indispensable to avoid a relapse into that treacherous complaint.

That there should be a particular saint, to superintend the medical department of curing the ague, is so perfectly consistent with the Catholic notions, that a deficiency on that point would more surprise me than to find a toe exempt from the influence of some heavenly aspect in the Vox Stellarum, which was one of my wonders in England. That province, in fact, is allotted to Saint Bartholomew. Now, nine-pence is a sufficient inducement for any of our sons of Esculapius to mount his mule as well as his wig, and dose you with the most compound electuary he is master of; but how to fee a supernatural doctor would be a puzzling question, were it not that tradition teaches the method of propitiating every individual mentioned in the calendar. Each saint has a peculiar fancy; from Saint Anthony of Padua, who will often delay the performance of a miracle till you plunge him into

a well, or nail his print topsy-turvy upon the wall, to Saint Pasqual Baylon, who is readiest to attend such as accompany their petitions with some lively steps and a final caper. As to Saint Bartholomew, nothing will induce him to cure an ague but a yow to abstain, on the day of his festival, from all food except bread and fruit; the very means which, but for his miraculous interference, would, according to common opinion, cause either a return or an aggravation of the complaint.

Mark, now, the vow employed by the Roman matrons for the cure of intermittents. It is recorded by Horace (Sat. L. II, 3, 288), and thus translated

by Francis:-

Her child beneath a quartan fever lies
For full four months, when the fond mother cries,
Sickness and health are thine, all-powerful Jove;
Then, from my son this dire disease remove,
And when your priests thy solemn fast proclaim,
Naked the boy shall stand in Tiber's stream.
Should chance, or the physician's art, upraise
Her infant from the desperate disease,
The frantic dame shall plunge her hapless boy,
Bring back the fever, and the child destroy.

The existence of Heathen superstitions adapted to Christian worship is too common to excite surprise; nor is it any similarity in the externals of the two practices I have just compared that constitutes their analogy. My mind is struck alone by the unchangeable spirit of superstition, which attributing, in all ages and nations, our own passions and feelings to supernatural beings, endeavours to obtain their favour by flattering their vanity. Both the antient Roman and modern Spanish vow for the cure of the ague, seems to set at defiance the supposed and most probable causes of the disease from which the devotees seek deliverance, as if to secure to the patron deities the undoubted and full honour of the miracle.

*25.—SAINT LOUIS.

The church of France consecrates the 25th of August to the memory of Louis IX, King of France. 'This prince' (says Voltaire), 'appeared destined to reform Europe, if it was capable of it; to render France triumphant, and a model to the rest of the world. His piety, which was that of an anchorite, did not interfere with any virtue of the king: a wise economy was consistent with liberality; he practised the profoundest policy, but was always strictly just, and, perhaps, he is the only sovereign who is entitled to this praise. Prudent and firm in council, intrepid in battle, without being rash, and as compassionate as if his whole life had been one scene of misfortune. No man was ever endowed with more distinguished virtues.'

The fête of St. Louis always has been, and is still, that of the sciences and of literature. The academies hold their public meetings on this day; the painters and sculptors exhibit their works to the public, and, in many colleges, prizes and crowns of laurel are distributed on this day to the scholars. An order of chivalry, into which the military alone were omitted, and which required no other recommendation than the proof of services rendered to the state, was instituted in 1693, under the name of Saint Louis. This order has been adopted by Louis XIV, a king worthy of the name of 'Great,' given him by contemporaries, and confirmed by posterity.

28.—SAINT AUGUSTINE.

Saint Augustine was the most voluminous writer of all the Fathers. He was born in the year 354; in 391 was chosen Bishop of Hippo; and died in 430, at the age of seventy-six.

29.—JOHN BAPTIST BEHEADED.

This day was formerly denominated Festum Collectionis Sancti Johannis Baptistæ; or the feast of gathering up St. John the Baptist's relics. His nati-

vity is celebrated on the 24th of June, which see.—Consult also T T. for 1823, p. 234.

On a BAPTISMAL FONT.

[Hymn XIII, from Prudentius.]

On this sad spot—here, where the conscious ground Foul with the blood of martyrs oft hath been,

A never-failing stream shall still be found,

Whose stainless wave can cleanse from every sin.

Whose stainless wave can cleanse from every sin.

Let him, whose heavy soul yet yearns to mount,
Whose hot breath burns for Heaven, still seek this spot,—
Let him but wash in this eternal font.

Let him but wash in this eternal font,

His hands are pure, and all their crimes forgot.

Here, where the lightened sinners' thanks are breathed, Of olden time were fearless martyrs crowned,

Yea, where the holy warrior's head was wreathed By trembling hearts, is kindly pardon found.

The joyful waters sparkle o'er the brim,

Where martyrs' wounds once poured a crimson food,

And blest are both—and sacred still to Him, Who shed for us that water and that blood!

Ye who have had, when here, asked for grace,—And found this hallowed spot a Heaven afford,—What boots it whether, to your resting place,
The way was oped by water or the sword?

Blackwood's Magazine.

*31. 1826.—JOHN RAITHBY DIED,

Author of 'The Study and Practice of the Law considered,' a work of considerable merit, and calculated to be of great assistance to the young student. He also published some pamphlets upon political and other subjects; and, at the time of his death, was engaged in compiling a digested 'Index to the Statutes at large,' a work attended with no small labour and the most patient investigation.

*Aug. 1825.—The living skeleton exhibited in London.

This young man, born in the province of Champagne, in France (says an eye-witness), is 29 years old, 5 ft. 6 in. high, and grew to his present height when fourteen years of age, having never had a day's ill-

ness, excepting a pain in his side, supposed to arise from a diseased liver. His face is somewhat cadaverous, but it is when he is disrobed that his wretched form shocks the spectator: his ribs are plainly seen, as is the action of the heart; the abdomen is greatly wasted, and the thigh bones merely covered by the common integuments, having neither fat nor muscle. He possesses scarcely more muscular power than enables him slightly to elevate the extremities, and it is supposed that he could not raise a pound weight in his hand. On level ground he can walk a little, but his step-mother is obliged to carry him up stairs. To the observer he has the appearance of being wasted by long-continued famine, or, rather of some re-animated corpse that had lain for months in a charnel-house. It is said his daily food does not exceed three ounces, and his drink is cider.

*AUG. 1577.—THE BLACK ASSIZE.

At the assizes held at Oxford, in this month, the lieutenant of the county, two knights, eight esquires, and justices of the peace, and almost all the gentlemen of the grand jury, died soon after their return into the country of a disorder occasioned by inhaling the noxious effluvia of the town gaol. Above one hundred scholars, besides townsmen, were seized with a strange distemper, and ran about the streets like madmen, and beat their governors. This complaint raged for one entire month.—Pointer's Oxoniensis Academia, p. 117.

*Aug. 1825.—single blocks of stone.

The enormous columns of granite used for the portico of the new church building in the Place d'Isacc, at St. Petersburgh, are very remarkable. In order to form a proper estimate of their size, we may give the comparative magnitude of the largest blocks known, both antient and modern. 1. The column of Alexandria, commonly called Pompey's Pillar, holds the first rank: it is of a single block of

red granite, 67 feet, 4 inches, 11 lines. 2. The columns of the Church d'Isacc, in height 56 feet. 3. The columns, whose ruins are near Mount Citoria, at Rome, height 52 feet, 4 inches. 4. Columns of the portico of the Pantheon, height 46 feet, 9 inches, 11 lines. 5. Columns of the Cathedral of Casan, at St. Petersburgh, height 42 feet. 6. Two columns of the Church of St. Paul at Rome, without the inclosure, height 38 feet, 4 inches. 7. The columns near the Baths of Dioclesian, and those of Caracalla, now placed at Florence, near the Pont Trinité, of the same height as the preceding. To these may be added a beautiful column of white marble, about 40 feet long, taken from a quarry on the south side of the Simplon road; it was destined by Napoleon for the ornamental improvements of Milan.

COMPARATIVE HEIGHTS of the HIGHEST EDIFICES KNOWN in the WORLD.

the the . WOLLD:		
·	Eng.	Feet.
Pyramid of Ghizeh in Egypt	•	543
Steeples of the Cathedral at Cologne	-	501
Steeple of the Minster at Strasburg	-	486
Steeple of the Cathedral at Antwerp	-	476
Pyramids of Cheops in Egypt	-	452
Steeple of St. Stephen's at Vienna -	-	442
Steeple of the Minster at Ulm	-	431
Cupola of St. Peter's at Rome	-	431
Pyramid of Cephrenes in Egypt	- '	426
Steeple of St. Martin's at Landshut	-	442
Steeple of the Cathedral at Cremona	-	396
Steeple of the Minster at Friburg -	-	395
Cupola of the Cathedral at Florence	-	384
Steeple of St. Persina in Saxony -	_	382
Cupola of the Cathedral at Milan -	-	357
Steeple of the Cathedral at Utrecht -	-	356
Pyramid of Sackkarah in Egypt	-	356
Steeples of Notre Dame at Munich -	-	348
Cupola of St. Paul's at London	-	347
Steeple of St. Ascharius at Bremen -	-	345
Steeples of the Cathedral at Magdebu	ITE.	335
Steeple of St. Mark's at Venice		82 8
Cupola of the Jesuit's Church at Paris	-	314
Asinelli Tower at Bologna	·	314
Cupola of the Invalids at Paris	• .	295
Steeple of St. Mary's at Berlin		202

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Astronomical Occurrences

::

In AUGUST 1827.

EFFECTS of SUN-RISE.

The Sun, awakening, through the smoky air Of the dark city casts a sullen glance, Rousing each caitiff to his task of care. . . Of sinful man the sad inheritance; Summoning revellers from the lagging dance; Scaring the prowling robber to his den; Gilding, on battled tower, the warder's lance; And warning student pale to leave his pen, And yield his drowsy eyes to the kind nurse of men. What various scenes, and, O! what scenes of woe, Are witnessed by that pale and struggling beam! The fevered patient, from his pallet low, Through crowded hospital beholds it stream; The ruined maiden trembles at its gleam; The debtor wakes to thought of gyve and jail; The love-lorn wretch starts from tormenting dream; The wakeful mother, by the glimmering pale, Trims her sick infant's couch, and sooths his feeble wail. Scorr's 'Lady of the Lake,' Canto VI

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Virgo at 42 m. after 11 at night of the 23d of this month, and he rises and sets on certain days as in the following Table. Our young readers will bear in mind that the time of rising and setting on the other days must be found by proportion.

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

		4., Sets 40 m. past 7	
6th,	. 27	4. , . , 33 7	,
11th, ,,,,,,,,	. 85	4 7	,
16th,	. 44	4 16 7	1
21st	. 53	4 7 7	,
26th	. 2	5 58 d	,
Rigt		r AQ R	

Equation of Time.

The following Table shews the quantities that must be added to solar time, to obtain that which should A a 2

be indicated at the same moment by a well regulated clock. If the time by the clock do not agree with the calculation, it must be altered and regulated accordingly.

TARLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Wednesday, Monday,	August								
Saturday,	••••	llth,	••		 	• • •	• • • • •	• • • • • •	4 59
Thursday, Tuesday,	••••	21st.			 				8 8
Sunday,	••••	26th,	٠.		 				1 46
Friday,	• • • •	Bist,	• •	• • • •	 • • • •	•••	• • • • •	• • • •	0.30

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Full Moon, 7th	day, at	40 m. after	5 in the morning
Last Quarter 14th	•••••	46	11
New Moon, 22d		81	2 in the afternoon
First Quarter, 29th		21	9 in the evening

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

If the weather be favourable, the following transits of the Moon will afford opportunities for observa-the tion. If the place be distant from the first meridian, mes will require a slight correction according to the longitude

	1,7	ME.				
August		7	at 49	m. after 6	in the	evening
	2d,	• • • •	40			••••••
	. 3d,	2	20			•••
	4th.	4	~ \	8		••••••
	5th.	4	ž	٠ و) <i>.</i>	
•	Ath.		S 34	10		•••••
	14.5	• • • • •	y			•••••
	1400,	3	0			
	15th,	· · · · 1	7) in the	morning
	TOUR.		.	~	1	• • • • • • •
	17th.		• • • • • • •	7	* · · · · ·	
	18th	4.	•••••	• 7		
	DOLL,	•••• 4-1	L	8		
					" T	evening
······	81st.	RA		. ~		******
C TT				7		

Time of High Water at London for every). The following Table exhibits the time of high ter at London Bridge, which may also be rea found for other days, and numerous other places,

already directed.

. .

TABLE OF TIDES. . .

			Morning. 35 m. after 7a					Afternoon.					
August	lst,	at	35	m.	after	7	at	7	m.	after :	8		
. •													
	llth,	• •	38			- 4		50			4		
	16th.		30	• • •		8		7		'	9		
	21st,		4	• • •				28			1		
							•••••						

The highest tide this month will be on the 9th, but this will not be so high as sometimes happens, unless increased by local or temporary circumstances.

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

This planet now assumes the appearance of the full Moon, the greater part of her disk being enlightened, for

August 1st, { Illuminated part = 11.40039 Dark part.... = 0.59961

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Though there will be not less than twenty eclipses of the first and second of these satellites this month, there will not be one of them visible at the Royal Observatory.

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

August 6th, with β in Capricorn, at 10 in the morning 26th, α in Virgo, at 8 in the afternoon

Other Phenomena.

Mercury will be in his inferior conjunction at 15 m. past 1 in the morning of the 13th; stationary on the 22d, and attain his greatest elongation on the 31st of this month. Venus and Mars will also be in conjunction with each other at 3 in the afternoon of the 21st.

We shall present our readers with the following natural access in different parts of the globe, from two of those hardy travellers to whom the public is

at once so much indebted for information and amusement.

An Evening Suene at Sea, near Greenland's Coast.

At a quarter past ten the Sun set: the sky over-head was of the purest azure, here and there sprinkled with light silvery clouds of the most fantastic forms. At about mid heaven, in the western sky, a range of purple clouds, edged with vivid gold, formed a delightful contrast with the softened crimson of the setting Sun. In opposition to this glowing scene, the eastern heavens were filled with heavy clouds of a brilliant whiteness, and cold appearance, backed by a clear blue sky. The calm sea exhibited, in a softened degree, the beauties above it, and its surface was occasionally ruffled by the rapid motions of large shoals of porpoises, attended by multitudes of birds. The ships lay motionless together, and their bells alone broke the universal stilness. This delightful evening far excelled, in my opinion, any Italian sunnet: but the presence of two large icebergs reminded us but too well that we were in a far different climate. -Capt. Lyon's Journal.

A NIGHT SCENE in BRAZIL.

He who has not personally experienced the enchantment of tranquil moonlight nights in these happy latitudes, can never be inspired, even by the most faithful description, with those feelings which scenes of such wondrous beauty excite in the mind of the beholder. A delicate transparent mist hangs over the country; the Moon shines bright amid heavy and singularly grouped clouds; the outlines of the objects which are illuminated by it are clear and well defined, while a magic twilight seems to remove from the eye cose which are in shade. Scarcely a breath of air

is stirring, and the neighbouring mimosas, that have folded up their leaves to sleep, stand motionless beside the dark crowns of the mango, the jaca, and the etherial jambos. Or sometimes a sudden wind arises. and the juiceless leaves of the acaju (Anacardium occidentale) rustle, the richly flowered grumijama and pitanza (two kinds of Brazilian myrtle) let drop a fragrant shower of snow-white blossoms: the crowns of the majestic palms wave slowly over the silent roof which they overshade, like a symbol of peace and tranquillity. Shrill cries of the cicada or grasshopper, and the tree frog, make an incessant hum, and produce, by their monotony, a pleasing melancholy. A stream gently murmuring descends from the mountains, and the Perdix guyanensis, with its almost human voice, seems to call for help from a distance. Every quarter of an hour, different balsamic odours fill the air, and other flowers alternately unfold their leaves to the night, and almost overpower the senses with their perfume. Now, it is the bowers of paullinias, or the neighbouring orange grove; then, the thick tufts of the eupatoria, or the bunches of the flowers of the palms suddenly bursting, which disclose their blossoms, and thus maintain a constant succession of fragrance. While the silent vegetable world, illuminated by swarms of fire flies, as by a thousand moving stars, charms the night by its delicious effluvia, brilliant lightnings play incessantly in the horizon, and elevate the mind in joyful admiration to the stars, which, glowing in solemn silence in the firmament above the continent and ocean, fill the soul with a presentiment of still sublimer wonders. In the enjoyment of the peaceful and magic influence of such nights, the newly arrived European remembers with tender longings his native home, till the luxuriant scenery of the tropics has become to him a second country. -- Von Spix's Travels.

The Naturalist's Diarv

For AUGUST 1827.

Daylight now breaks o'er the billow. Winds o'er its bosom soft creep; Oh rise, Fanny, rise from your pillow, Nor waste such bright hours in sleep. Tho' lovely thy dream and repose is, Yet lovelier far 'tis to see Each bud of the rose that uncloses, To welcome that wanderer, the bee.

Butterflies gently are whirling Their flight, and blithe urchins pursue O'er flowers, whose bell stands a pearl in, That pearl, my sweet Fanny's, the dew. Then rise, Fanny, rise from your pillow, Time's sands through his hour-glass creep; Each breeze that now sighs o'er the billow Seems to whisper-'awake from your sleep!'

RICHARD RYAN,

WE have often attempted to impress upon our readers, particularly our young friends, the pleasures and the benefits to be derived from early rising, especially at this season of the year, when the great heats prevent our enjoying any out-of-door exercise in the middle of the day. Surely, the above poetical invitation to a morning ramble will have some weight with our fair sleepers; and we think we see 'Fanny dearest' with her pretty, cool muslin bonnet, and light shawl, just ready to accompany us in our morning survey of Nature's beauties; and whether it be birds, flowers, or insects, to which she is most attached, we promise her much pleasure in the enjoyment of her innocent pursuits.

The solitary bee may be observed in this month: its nest is most curious, and worthy of particular notice. The whole nest is about the bigness of a modorate sized Orleans plum. It is constructed of a kind of thin paper, set on seemingly in rounds, like the rounds of straw plat. The sides are double, that is, one paper, or wall, within another, at a little distance, like the walls or canvasses of an officer's tent in camp, for warmth, and over the top, besides, another covering to shoot off the wet. The entrance is by a single hole at the bottom. In the inside, attached to the top, are the cells, about seven or eight in number.

with their openings downward.

Lady-birds abound in this month. A great fall of these insects took place at Brighton in August 1826, and in the sea near that place; but this is by no means an unprecedented occurrence. There was a similar fall some years ago in and near Rochester, when the 'lady-birds' infested, as long as they lived, that city, and left, after their death, a disgusting scent, which was retained in the shops for many months. At a more recent period, myriads of the same insect were observed on the hop-plants in the neighbourhood of Maidstone; and the plants having failed there that year, the poor 'lady-birds' were precipitately condemned—probably by hop-factors, who have always recourse to 'the fly or the lie' as the cause of the failure. Investigation, however, soon discovered that this judgment was erroneous. The injury to the hop-plants was found to have been produced by a class of much minuter insects, that had heen doing mischief previous to the visit of the 'ladybirds: and the latter were satisfactorily ascertained to have rested in the plantation only with a view to devour the former, who were the undermining destroyers of the plants. It is not often that lady-birds have appeared in such multitudes as they did this season. They seem to have spread over the whole country, and dropped down from the trees about Avlesford almost as thick as from the cloud that passed over Brighton. When they visit the hop-grounds, they feed upon the larvæ of the Aphides,—small black-bodied flies with large wings, which appear upon the hopplants before the 'lady-birds' are visible. Both these kinds of insects are migratory. On two occasions in autumn, we have seen a cloud of Aphides going off from the coast to the sea, like that of the 'lady-birds' in the neighbourhood of Brighton. On one of these occasions, off the coast of Kent, the cloud appeared of great extent, and dropped myriads every moment into the sea. About the same time of the year, the Rev. Mr. White, of Selborne, witnessed a similar phenomenon in his own neighbourhood. 'On the 1st of August,' says that interesting natural historian, 'about half an hour after three in the afternoon, the people of Selborne were surprised by a shower of Aphides which fell in these parts. They who were walking the streets at the time, found themselves covered with these insects, which settled also on the trees and gardens, and blackened all the vegetables where they alighted. These armies, no doubt, were then in a state of emigration, and shifting their quarters; and might perhaps come from the great hop-plantations of Kent or Sussex, the wind being that day at north. They were observed at the same time at Farnham, and all along the vale to Alton.'

Butterflies.—Papilio Io, Argus, and the Phlæas, are seen in this month. Many of the species of butterflies are extremely local: as an illustration of this fact. we may observe that the number of Papilionidæ found in England is about seventy-two: of this number not more than fifty are to be met within twentyfive miles of London; of these, again, several are confined to the vicinity of a chalk cliff, or are peculiar to a meadow or a certain wood; and, even in these situations, their appearance in the perfect state is limited but to a few days, and at a certain season of the year. Of the remaining number, not found within this distance from London, some are confined to fens near a hundred miles from the metropolis, and others to the mountains of Scotland; but equally limited in the times of appearance and shortness of their lives. There is also another circumstance in the history of

these insects that must not be passed over in silence; that there are several species of insects which, from some hitherto unknown cause, appear in the season, but only in certain years, when they will be found in abundance, and probably extended over a vast tract of the country, but again disappear for some time, and not a single specimen is to be found for a period of many years, when they will again be seen as plentiful as before. This is a circumstance that is not confined to England, where it might be attributed to our 'ever-varying clime:' it occurs also in tropical countries; for Dr. Horsfield informs me, that the first year he began to collect the insects of Java he met with a certain species of Papilio in abundance, and spread all over the island: at this time he fortunately secured a quantity, but, wishing to replace some injured specimens, he afterwards sought in the most likely places, and at the same season of the year, for several successive years, but never met with them afterwards. Butterflies by only during the day, and are found on the skirts of woods, and in the open parts or plains; some are peculiar to extensive marshes, and many are confined to chalky districts and meadows.—Samouelle's Directions for Collecting and Preserving Exotic Insects.

One of our most beautiful butterflies, with its larva, Vanessa Antiope, or the Camberwell Beauty, is figured in Mr. Curtis's British Entomology, Plate 96c it belongs to the most superb genus of British Papilionide, and is rendered rare and remarkable in this country by its periodical appearance, the cause of which has hitherto never been ascertained: the most probable conjecture is (as Mr. Haworth has observed) that 'their eggs, in this climate, like the seeds of some vegetables, may occasionally lie dormant for several seasons, and not batch, until some extraordinary but undiscovered coincidences awake them into active life.' Until four or five years since, V. Antiope

had not been seen for nearly forty years, when it was exceedingly abundant in different parts of the kingdom. In the year 1819 a few were taken in Suffolk: and Mr. Samouelle captured one that had lived through the winter the following spring, since which period it has not been seen. It has received its English name from having been first observed at Camberwell, whither it might have been attracted by willows, upon which the larvæ feed, and are full grown the beginning of July. The butterfly is found the beginning of August; it frequents woods, and is strong and rapid in flight. Another species, V. Atalanta, in its perfect state, is sometimes very destructive to fruit, particularly cherries, extracting the juice from those that are ripe; probably taking advantage of previous injuries occasioned by birds. wasps, and flies.

Wasps now become very troublesome, and flies abound, and torment both men and animals with their perpetual buzzing. The inconvenience, however, suffered from these insects in England, is nothing when compared with that experienced in more southern countries. The entertaining author of the Sketches of Portuguese Life (p. 156), describing a ride through the streets of Lisbon in a hackney coach, says, 'The segé or hackney coach is drawn by mules or horses, sometimes by one of each. The construction of the vehicle is so wretchedly imagined, that it is not impervious to rain or dust, having nothing but the leather curtain in front to protect you from either. This curtain is left open in fine weather; although you then get covered with flies, who, being disturbed at your approach, rise in thick clouds from the street dunghills, and out of revenge crowd in upon you, bringing with them small remnants of that on which they have been feeding. In some streets, where the uncleanliness is greater than elsewhere, the bodies of the horses and the wheels of the vehicle are literally covered with

the disturbed swarms of these disgusting insects; and the buzzing noise which fills the air is almost sufficient to drown conversation.

'It is impossible, even in the houses, to get rid of this intolerable nuisance. At table, if you let fall your knife, such are the clustering crowds of them, that you will kill at least from twenty to thirty without counting the wounded, who, limping away in all directions, creep most likely into your plate, and thus complete your nausea. Hundreds are the expedients that have been tried to effect a riddance of them. Some place, as is done in England, plates of poison near the windows; others tie bird-limed strings across the top of the room, for them to stick to at roosting Bunches of cut paper are hung up in the rooms on which they attach themselves at night, and being then set fire to suddenly, myriads are destroyed at a blow. But all these are ineffectual remedies. and no other alternative remains for a stranger than to resign himself to the evil, and quietly swallow as many of them per diem as the natives, who, being accustomed to it, do not feel the inconvenience. In the street, it is of urgent necessity to keep one's mouth shut; and if speech becomes necessary, let it at least be articulated without unclosing the teeth. The mosauitos are also----but I have already made too long a digression about flies.

Mrs. Bowditch (the widow of the late unfortunate Africantraveller) informed Mr. Samouelle, that during her residence in that country, when the cloth was laid before or after a shower of rain, they were obliged to clear the table and shake the cloth, which was literally covered with various insects, before they could take their meal; and that the numbers were so great, at times, as completely to extinguish the lights, and to become, in various other ways, extremely obpoxious.

The harvest-bug, in this and the following month, proves a very troublesome and disagreeable insect,

particularly in some of the southern counties of Engand. Spirit of hartshorn, eau-de-luce, and tincture of camphor, are excellent remedies for its envenomed hite.

Much amusement may be derived, in this month, from searching for insects among the weeds thrown up in clearing ponds. Among these will be found the larvæ of the Phryganea, or caddis-fly. See T. T.

for 1824, p. 234.)

The common toad flax, which is now in full flower, supplies food to a caterpillar, which, in the June following, produces a beautiful moth called Emithecia Linariata (Pl. 64), which is figured in Curtis's British Entomology. Upon the coast of Hampshire, a fine fly has been found during this month, called Helcomuza ustulata (Pl. 66): it is also abundant at the same period upon the sand hills near Calais.

We are indebted to the celebrated French naturalist. Resumura for a knowledge of the economy of a bee that is found this month, called Colletes fodicus (Pl. 85); and it is a little singular that no one appears, since his time, to have been able to discover their nests. which they form amongst the earth that fills up the spaces of some stone walls: they are cylindrical, and composed of many cells of different lengths, placed in a horizontal line, each cell being formed like a thimble, and fitted to the next; sometimes, however, when a stone obstructs their course, the line becomes irregular: the cells have alternate transverse bands of two or more colours; the shorter ones at their junction are white, the longer ones enveloping the body are reddish brown. These cells are constructed of many layers lying one over the other; and although their contexture is close, they are very transparent, in consequence of their extreme thinness, sufficiently so, indeed, to discover the colour of the substances contained in them, which causes the variegated line above described.

A very curious insect is also met with this month.

called, by the author of British Entomology, Aneurus lævis (Pl. 86). In Plate 92 is represented a beautiful moth named Spilosoma Walkerii, Curtis, in honour of its possessor, Sir Patrick Walker, who took it near Edinburgh.

An Autumnal Evening.

[Written for Time's Telescope, by Delta, of Blackwood's Magazine.]

How still this hour! the mellow Sun Withdraws his western ray,
And, evening's haven almost won,
He leaves the seas of day:
Soft is the twilight reign, and calm,
As o'er autumnal fields of balm
The languid zephyrs stray;
Across the lawn the heifers roam;
The wearied reaper seeks his home.

The laden earth is rich with flowers,
All bathed in crimson light;
While hums the bee 'mid garden bowers
With clustering blossoms bright:
The woods outshoot their shadows dim;
O'er the smooth lake the swallows skim
In wild and wilful flight;
Moored by the marge the shallop sleeps,
Above its deck the willow weeps.

Tis sweet, in such an hour as this,
To bend the pensive way,
Scan Nature, and partake the bliss
Which charms like her's convey:
No city's bustling noise is near;
And but the little birds you hear,
That chaunt so blithe and gay;
And ask ye whence their mirth began?
Perchance since free, and far from man.

Their little lives are void of care;
From bush to bush they fly,
Filling the rich ambrosial air
Of August's painted sky:
They flit about the fragrant wood;
Elisha's God provides them food,
And hears them when they cry;
For ever blithe and blest are they,
Their sinless course a summer's day.

Yon bending clouds, all purpling, streak
The mantle of the west;
And tremulously the sunbeams break
On Pentland's mountain crest:
Hill, valley, ocean, sky, and stream,
All wear one placid look, and seem
In silent beauty blest;
As if created Natures raised.
To heaven their choral souls, and praised

Above you cot upon the plain
The wreathy smoke ascends;
A silent emblem, with the main
Of sailing clouds it blends:
Like a departed spirit gone
Up from low earth to Glory's throne,
To mix with sainted friends,
And, life's probation voyage o'er,
Furl Sorrow's sail, and grieve no more!

Scotian Botany for August.

In the summer months, but particularly in August, many of the numerous and highly valuable class of grasses may be observed in flower. They are all furnished with three stamina and two pistils, excepting the Authoxanthum odoratum, which gives to hay its grateful smell. These plants are every where abundant, presenting a beautiful diversity in their forms, affording food to man, and countless numbers of animals. Upon the seeds of the smaller species most of our birds subsist; while upon the larger, as the Triticum, Avena, and Hordeum, man himself may be said The seed of this very natural family may be all caten, excepting perhaps those of the Lolium tremulentum, which are said to have the power of intoxicating, and even of occasioning death. Each grass appears in its own peculiar soil and geographical situation with much regularity. In some of those which grow on alpine situations we find that instead of shedding their seeds, as is the case with most plants, they retain them attached till germination has commenced, when they are allowed to drop off and take root;—a beautiful contrivance, which prevents the risk of their being devoured by birds, or of being otherwise lost.

Our fields are now rich in plants belonging to the class Syngenesia. The sow-thistles (Sonchus arvensis, and oleraceus), bearing several yellow flowers upon a stark three or four feet in height, are to be found abundantly. The Aspurgia autumnalis, hispida, and hirts, the autumnal, rough, and deficient, aspergias, with many species of Hieracium, or hawkweeds, adorn our banks and sales. The thistle family, containing several species of the genus

Cardune and Criese, are too frequent in our pastures, as is also the rag-weed (Senecio Jacobae), which covers whole fields with its yellow flowers. The Parethrum parthenaum and inodorum (common and scoutless fever-few), with the Achilles milliplicate and ptarmics (the common yarrow and sneezewort), are every where abundant.

Too frequently our corn-fields are decorated with the flowers of the corn-marigold (Chrysanthomum segetum), the wild camomile (Matricaria chamomilla), and the corn blue-bottle (Centumes cuarus); which, when in small quantity, give to the fields a pleasing variety, but when numerous, they constitute some of the farmer's most formidable enemies. These, and many more of this numerous natural class, are now in flower. They are all destitute of a pericarpium or seed-vessel, the principal use of which is to give protection to the seeds, and when ripe to promote their dissemination. To effect both of these purposes, they are, however, furnished with an appendage in the pappus or seeddown, which serves as a covering and protection to the seeds in the first instance, and finally floats them in the air, till their progress is interrupted by some obstacle, or moistened with rain. which conduces much to their immediate germination. In some, as in the thistle, this feathery crown separates sooner than in most plants, and we see it occasionally floating in the air over the whole country.

The following plants are very common by the sides of our fields and waysides, namely, the large-flowered hemp nettle (Galeopsis versicolor), with its elegantly marked yellow-flower, the little purple-flowered own woundwort (Stachis arvensis), the blue self-heal (Prunella vulgaris), the little white panieles of the corn spurry (Spergula arvensis), and purging flax (Linum cathartieum), besides the little blue Sherardia arvensis. Gallium verum, brusiatum, and aparine (the yellow bed-straw, crosswort, and

oliver or goose-grass), are all exceedingly abundant.

In woods or shady places, are seen the Epepaciis latifolia and ensifolia (the broad-leaved and the narrow-leaved helleborine), and the common tway-blade (Listera ovata); these three plants, with the orchis before mentioned, form past of the beautiful natural family of Orchidea, and belong to the Linnean class Gyanardria monandria, where the stamina arise either from the style or germ. The Goodyera repens and the marsh malaxis (M. paludosa), other two plants belonging to the same family, are also to be sparingly met with; the first is most commonly seen in old woods, and the latter in moist situations.

In marshes, are now found the Althea officinalis (marsh-mailow), several of the Rumex family or docks (Alisma plantage and ranunculoides), the great and lesser water plantain; the Triglockin palustre (marsh arrow grass), Tofieldia palustris (Scottish asphedel), with its white flowers; Scutslaria, or skull-cap, Epilo-

biums, or willow-herbs, and the elegant Parnassia palustris (grass of Parnassus). This last plant has a large white flower, and its nectaries, which are heart-shaped, are ciliated on their margins with small, yellow, pellucid glands: one or more of its stamina lean over the stigma till their pollen is discharged, when they retire and give place to others; the same curious circumstance may

be observed in the Saxifrages and several other plants.

The white horehound (Marubium vulgare), the black horehound (Balleta nigra), and the Leonurus cardiaca, or motherwort, may be all found on stony wastes. Their flowers are of a pale red. or nearly white, and grow upon the top of their stem in crowded whorls; they form part of the natural order Labiata, and belong to the class Didynamia gymnospermia. The horehound is much used in pectoral complaints, and more particularly in asthma, when it is given either in a candied form, or in infusion.

On our hills and sheep-pastures, the wild thyme (Thymus serpillum) enlivens and perfumes the sloping banks, and from its aromatic, purple flowers the bees extract honey in great abundance. The field gentian (Gentiana campestris), and Erythrea centaurium or centaury, are both much employed in stomachic complaints by the common people, and in many parts of the highlands they may be observed hanging in a dried state from the ceilings of most of the huts. Its infusion is taken with sugar and milk, and constitutes, perhaps, one of our best native bitters.

As many of our London readers contrive to run down to the sea-coast, either in this or the following month, and there, for the first time in their lives perhaps, behold such an unpoetical thing as a FEN, we will treat them with a picture of one on our north-east coast, by the hand of a master in this style of minute

Gerard-Dowish painting.

The ditches of a fen, when near the ocean, are lined with irregular patches of a coarse and stained lava; a muddy sediment rests on the horse-tail and other perennial herbs, which, in part, conceal the shallowness of the stream; a fat-leaved, pale-flowering scurvygrass appears early in the year, and the razor-edged bull-rush in the summer and autumn. The fen itself has a dark and saline herbage; there are rushes and arrow-head, and, in a few patches, the flakes of the cotton-grass are seen, but more commonly the sea-- 'he dullest of that numerous and hardy genus;

a thrift, blue in flower, but withering, and remaining withered till the winter scatters it; the salt-wort, both simple and shrubby; a few kinds of grass, changed by their soil and atmosphere, and low plants, of two or three denominations, undistinguished in a general view of the scenery:—

On either side Is level fen, a prospect wild and wide. With dikes on either hand, by Ocean's self supplied: . Far on the right the distant sea is seen, And salt the springs that feed the marsh between: Beneath an antient bridge the straitened flood Rolls through its sloping banks of slimy mud; Near it a sunken boat resists the tide, That frets and hurries to th' opposing side: The rushes sharp, that on the borders grow, . Bend their brown flow rets to the stream below. . Impure in all its course, in all its progress slow. Here a grave Flora scarcely deigns to bloom. Nor wears a rosy blush, nor sheds perfume; The few dull flowers that o'er the place are spread, Partake the nature of their fenny bed; Here on its wiry stem, in rigid bloom, Grows the salt lavender that lacks perfume: Here the dwarf sallows creep, the septfoil harsh, And the soft slimy mallow of the marsh; Loud on the ear the distant billows sound. And just in view appears their stony bound; No hedge nor tree conceals the glowing sun, Birds, save a wat'ry tribe, the district shun, Nor chirp among the reeds where bitter waters run.

An Italian Harvest.

There is something picturesque in the toil of an Italian peasant. It is not, as in more northern climes, where cold, and wet, and care are endured to be scantily repaid; and their unceasing anxiety is often terminated by the destruction of their crops through the severity of their climate. Guinigi and his fellow-labourers rose with the sun, which, ascending from the ocean, illumined the wide plain with its slant beams. The most beautiful vegetation luxuriated around them: the strips of land were planted with

Indian corn, wheat, and beans; they were divided, in some places, by rows of olives; in others, by elms or Lombardy poplars, to which the vines clung. The hedges were of myrtle, whose aromatic perfume weighed upon the sluggish air of noon, as the labourers reposed, sleeping under the trees, lulled by the rippling of the brooks that watered their grounds. In the evening they ate their meal under the open sky; the birds were asleep, but the ground was alive with innumerable glow-worms, and the air with the lightning-like fire-flies, small humming crickets, and heavy beetles: the west had quickly lost its splendour, but in the fading beams of sun-set sailed the boat-like Moon; while Venus, as another satellite to earth, beamed just above the crescent, hardly brighter than itself, and the outline of the rugged Apennines was marked darkly below.

Their harvests were plenteous and frequent. The mowing of the grass was quickly followed in June by the reaping, and the well-trodden threshing-floor, such as Virgil describes it, received the grain; then came the harvest of the Indian corn; and, last, the glorious vintage, when the dove-coloured oxen of Lombardy could hardly drag the creaking wains laden with the

fruit.—Valperga.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

August.

Rainy.—Gloomy.—Winds light and variable.

On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta 5 h. 37 m.; sets 6 h. 23 m. Light rain and cloudy weather; thermometer, same as last month.—Meat and fish-markets indifferent; the pumplenose or shaddock appears this month. The vegetables procurable are salad, asparagus, cucumbers, radishes, turnips, cabbage-sprouts, and some indifferent potatoes.

Indian corn, cucumbers, spinage, radishes, and

such like, are procurable all the year round; but they are tasteless, except at this season, when they become very palatable, firm, and good. Guavas begin to disappear; pine-apples, &c. continue in season.

Some fair weather is expected about this time.-

Rainy.

SCHTCMBCR.

SEPTEMBER, like the preceding month, derived its name from the place which it occupied in the Romulean calendar; it was the 7th. Its tutelar deity was Vulcan. The principal feasts were the Dionysia, or the Vintage, and the grand games called Circenses, which continued five days. The sign Libra is appropriated to it.

Remarkable Bays

In SEPTEMBER 1827.

1.—SAINT GILES.

GILES was born at Athens, but removed to France, and there died towards the end of the eighth century.

2.—LONDON BURNT.

The fire of London broke out on Sunday morning, September 2d, 1666, O.S.; and being impelled by strong winds, raged with irresistible fury nearly four days and nights: nor was it entirely mastered till the fifth morning after it began.—See T. T. for 1816, p. 249; T. T. for 1820, p. 213; and our last volume, p. 217.

7.—SAINT EUNERCHUS.

Eunerchus was Bishop of Orleans in the year 375. The circumstances of his election were regarded as miraculous.

8.—NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

A concert of angels having been heard in the air

to solemnize this important event, the festival was appointed by Pope Servius about the year 695.

*11. 1826.—LORD GIFFORD DIED, AT. 48,

Master of the Rolls, Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, &c. It may, with truth, be said of him. that he rose by 'fair means,' and, in his high station, bore his faculties meekly. By the very diligent application of an uncommonly quick, clear, and distinguishing mind, he became so learned in his profession, that the late Lord Chief Justice Gibbs (himself one of the greatest lawyers of his age) was of opinion, that, since the death of Dunning, there had not been an equal to Gifford, as a general lawyer. He had the gift of conveying to his hearers the subtle distinctions and abstruce learning of the law, with a rare union of perspicuity and brevity. He was soon distinguished on the western circuit, where the friendship of two such men as Horner and Lens was an earnest of the esteem of wise and good men. He was sought out by Ministers, to all of whom he was personally unknown, to fill the office of solicitorgeneral. His subsequent rise to the high situation he held at the time of his death is, no doubt, familiar to most of our readers. Among the numerous body who have risen from the middle classes to the highest stations of the law, it will be difficult to name any individual who owed his proferment more certainly to a belief of his merit than Lord Gifford, or who possessed more of those virtues which are most fitted to disarm the jealousy naturally attendant on great and sudden advancement.

14.—HOLY CROSS.

This festival was first observed in the year 615; see our volume for 1824, p. 236. For an account of the ceremony of kissing the cross, performed in the Greek Church on this day, see T.T. for 1822, p. 245.

The convent of St. Augustin, at Seville, it is said, possesses a fragment of the true cross, lignum crucis, which is esteemed one of its most valuable relies. In the year 1801, the yellow fiver

hasting shown itself in Seville, it was considered that an exhibition of the crucifix in the streets would give instant relief to the town. Accordingly, a day was fixed for a solemn procession to conduct the crucifix from the convent to the cathedral, and to ascend the tower for the purpose of blessing the four cardinal winds with the lignum crucis. On that day, the chapter of the cathedral, attended by the civil governor, the judges, the inquisitors, and the town corporation, repaired to the convent of Saint Augustin, and, having placed the crucifix upon a moveable stage covered with a magnificent canopy, walked before it with lighted candles in their hands, while the singers, in a mournful strain, repeated the names of the saints contained in the Catholic litany, innumerable voices joining, after every invocation, in the accustomed response—Ora pro nobis. Arrived at the cathedral, the image was exposed to public adoration within the presbytery, or space reserved for the ministering clergy, near the high altar. After this the dean, attended by the chapter, the inferior ministers of the church, and the singers, moved in solemn procession towards the entrance of the tower, and, in the same order, ascended the five-and-twenty inclined planes, which afford a broad and commodious access to the open belfry of that magnificent structure. The worship paid to any fragment of the true cross is next in degree to that which is due to the consecrated hest. On the view of the priest in his robes at one of the four central arches of the majestic steeple, the multitude who had crowded to the neighbourhood of the cathedral, from all parts of the city, fell upon their knees, their eyes streaming with tears; tears, indeed, which that unusual sight would have drawn from the weak and superstitious on any other occasion, but which, in the present affliction, the stoutest heart could hardly repress. An aecidental circumstance heightened the impressiveness of the scene. The day, one of the hottest of an Andalusian summer, had been overcast with electric clouds. The priests had scarcely begun to make the sign of the cross with the golden vase which contained the lignum crucis, when one of the tremendous thunder-storms, so awful in southern climates, burst upon the trembling multitude. A few considered this phenomenon as a proof that the public prayers were heard, and looked upon the lightning as the instrument which was to disperse the cause of the infection. But the greatest number read in the frowns of the sky the unappeased anger of Heaven, which doomed them to drain the bitter cup that was already at their lips. Alas! they were not deceived. The immense concourse from all parts of the town had, probably, condensed into a focus the scattered seeds of the infection. The heat, the fatigue, the anxiety of a whole day spent in this striking, though absurd, religious ceremony, had the most visible and fatal effect on the public health, Eight

and forty hours after the procession, the complaint had left but few houses unvisited. The deaths increased in a ten-fold proportion, and at the end of two or three weeks the daily number was from two to three hundred.—Doblado's Letters from Spain, p. 126.

17.—saint lambert.

Lambert was appointed Bishop of Maestricht in 673, and was murdered September 17th, 708. He was canonized in 1240.

19, 21, 22.—EMBER DAYS.—See p. 62.

21.—SAINT MATTHEW.

St. Matthew the Evangelist was slain at Nadabær, about the year 60. He wrote his Gospel in Hebrew. His festival was not instituted till the year 1090. 26.—OLD HOLY ROOD.—See HOLY CROSS, p. 300.

A curious account of the 'Rood of Grace' will be found in our last volume, p. 233.

26.—saint cyprian.

St. Cyprian was made Bishop of Carthage in the year 248. After many persecutions, he was beheaded in 258. His works were translated by Dr. Marshall, and published in one folio volume.

29.—SAINT MICHAEL,

The Archangel; his festival was first observed in the year 487. An account of the 'Vision of St. Michael,' which is celebrated by the Roman Catholics on the 8th of May, is thus detailed by a French author:—

This vision was seen on Mount Gargan, in Apulia, (now Mount San Angelo) in the kingdom of Naples, near the town of Siponto, the antient Sipuntum, and the modern Manfredonia. Under Pope Gelasius I, in the year 492, there was a rich man named Gargan, who possessed a great quantity of cattle, and one of his bulls having strayed from the herd, they had many days search for it, and at last found it in a cavern. The herdsman drew his bow with the intention of killing the animal, but the arrow rebounded, and wounded himself instead of the beast. His com-

panions immediately went to the Bishop of Siponto. who declared that the place where the bull had taken shelter, was entrusted to the guardianship of Saint Michael, and that this archangel had appeared to him and revealed the will of God, that they should build a church in the cavern of the bull, in honour of all the angels, of whom Saint Michael was the head. The people conformed to the wishes of the Bishop of Siponto, and Saint Michael (says Ribadeneira) has frequently appeared in this church and other places. He is particularly honoured in France. There was a celebrated Abbey dedicated to Saint Michael. called Saint Michael's Mount, near Avranches, and at high water surrounded by the sea. Before the establishment of Christianity, there was on this eminence a college of nine female druids; the eldest of them delivered oracles, and all sold arrows to the sailors, to which they attributed the power of calming tempests.

The Order of Chivalry, instituted in France by Louis XI, under the name of Saint Michael, was, at first, much sought after by the nobility, but its lustre was tarnished by the civil wars of the nineteenth century. Its place has been supplied by the Order of the Holy Ghost, but it has not been altogether superseded; the two orders being united for the king, the princes of the blood, and the knights of the Holy Ghost. The Order of St. Michael, however, was still conferred on such persons as were not sufficiently distinguished by their birth to take rank among the members of the first Order. The Mount Saint Michael, formerly consecrated to Belenus, appears to have been dedicated to St. Michael, in the eighth century of the Christian æra. The kings of France and of England, and the Dukes of Britany and of Normandy, made considerable presents to the religious there; and even as late as the year 1790. the Abbot of the Monastery for the time being was always the Governor of the Fortress: in his absence

the prior had the keys deposited with him every evening. There are in France many towns and villages bearing the name of St. Michael; the largest of the towns is in the antient Duchy of Bar, and scalled Saint Miel or Saint Mihel. The vision of St. Michael, on Mount Gargan, was the occasion of a fête, which was renewed every year in several churches in France. There are fairs held on this day, or the day after, in many places. Michael is designated by the prophet Daniel as the Protector of the Jewish nation: he is called an Archangel in the Epistle of St. Jude, and, from a passage in the Revelations, it may be concluded that he is chief of the celestial hierarchy.

30.—SAINT JEROME.

St. Jerome was the most eminent biblical scholar of the fourth century. He was born at Stridon about the year 331, and died at or near Bethlehem, A. D. 420, in the ninetieth year of his age.

Curious Mechanical Contrivances, A.D. 1625.

At Rual, in France, according to Dr. Heylin, Mary de Medicis had a fine summer house, 'abundantly adorned with retired walks, and a most curious variety of water-works. For, besides the forms of divers glasses, pillars, and geometrical figures, all framed by the water, there were birds of sundry sorts, so artificially made, that they both deceived the eye by their motion, and the ear by their melody. Somewhat higher, in the midst of a most delicious garden, are two fountains of admirable workmanship. In the first, the portraitures of Cerberus, the Boar of Calidon, the Nemean Lion, and in the navel of it, Hercules killing Hydra. In the other, only a Crocodile, full of wild and unruly tricks, and sending from his throat a musick not far different from organs. Had your eyes been shut, you would have thought yourself in some cathedral church; this melody of the crocodile and that other of the birds so exactly counterfeiting the harmony of a well-ordered quire.'

The 'melody of the crocodile' reminds us of a horrible curiosity which we once saw in the oriental library at the India-house. It is a musical instrument, which had been contrived for the imperial amusement of Tippoo Sultaun, among whose treasures it was found at Seringapatam. This instrument consists of two large figures in wood, representing a tiger trampling on a British soldier.

The melody was produced by machinery, which, when set in motion like a hand-organ, depressed the tiger's head, so as to represent him in the act of mangling the soldier, whose exclamations of distress are supposed to form the melody.

Astronomical Occurrences

In SEPTEMBER 1827.

The SUN.

A thousand ages thou has seen pass by,
And man, child of a day, beheld, with all
His boasted works, swept down the gulph of Time;
Hast viewed his pomp and glory float a wreck,
An undistinguished wreck, on the dark surge
Of cold oblivion. But thou art still the same;
And thy life-giving days shall have no end,
Nor thy unborrowed brightness e'er expire,
Till Time shall cease to be.

PENNIE.

THE Sun enters Libra at 24 m. after 8 in the evening of the 23d of this month, and he rises and sets during the same period as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

September 1st, 8					
6th.	24	5	• • • • •	36	6
	34				
	45				
	52				
	2				

Equation of Time.

By employing the numbers as directed in the following Table, apparent time will be converted into true or mean time, and the hour which should be indicated by a well regulated clock will be obtained.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

	m.	
Saturday, Sept. 1st, to the time by the dial add	U	1
Thursday, 6th, from the time by the dial subtract	1	35
Tuesday, 11th,	3	17
Sunday, 16th,	5	9
Friday, 21st,		
Wednesday, 26th,	S	50

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Trases of the Moon.				
Full Moon,	5th day, at 36 m. after	2	in the afternoon	
	18th, 44			
	21st, 31			
First Quarter	28th, 14	3	***********	

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The Moon will pass the first meridian at the following times this month, which will afford opportunities for observation if the weather prove favourable.

September 1st,	at 35 m. after 8 in the evening
2d,	33 9
	23 9
	6 5 in the morning
	54 5
	43 6
	30 7
26th.	41 4 in the evening
	40 5
	38 6
	35 7
	29

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The following are the periods of full tide at London Bridge; those for various other places may be found by adding or subtracting the numbers given under the head of January. The highest tide this month will be on the 7th.

TABLE OF TIDES.

		Morning.	Afternoon.
Sept. 1st.	at	50 m. after9	36 m. after 10
6th.		88 2	56 9
			55 5
			4310
			37 2
			54 5

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Venus now presents nearly a full illuminated phase to the earth, but her great distance causes her light to appear dim.

Sept. 1st { Illuminated part = 11-8334 | Dark part.... = 0.1636

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

None of the eclipses of the first and second of these satellites will be visible this month.

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Sept. 2d, with β in Capricorn, at 7 in the evening 22d, α in Virgo,.... at 10 at night 30th, β in Capricorn, at 9 in the morning

Other Phenomena.

Mercury and Mars will be in conjunction with each other at 1 in the morning of the 4th of this month, and Mercury and Venus at midnight of the 18th. Mercury will also be in his superior conjunction at half-past 9 in the evening of the 24th.

We shall conclude the Occurrences of the present month with the following beautiful Stanzas to the Stars, fully persuaded that our readers of taste and feeling will not require any apology for their insertion.

ODE to the STARS.

How beauteous! how wondrous! fain, fain would I see
Your myriads unrobed of their mystery;
Fain would I cleave the dark dome of the night,
Soaring up like a thought to your islands of light;
Fain would I rifle your secrets divine,
With what forms ye are peopled, and wherefore ye shine;
By what laws ye are governed, and framed on what plan,
I would know....but I may not....this is not for man!

Great, glorious the day, when the Author of all
Having spake ye from nought....and ye sprung at the call;
Through the regions of space from his hand ye were hurled,
Dark myriads of atoms, each atom a world!

When each sped to his point in the boundless expanse,
And ye caught your first light from the light of his glance!
His power in one moment fixed each in his spot;

One moment remitted, ye sink, and are not.

What a dot is this earth, 'mid ye orbs of the sky! And, compared with this earth, what a nothing am I! Yet I, with my mind's cobweb plummet, would sound That mind that hath known nor creation nor bound; Would fathom the depths of his wondrous decree! Can the fly grasp a world...a shell compass the sea? No: this to weak man is allowed, and no more.... He may wonder and worship, admire and adore.

Meteorological Account of Sierra Leone, for the Year 1793.

July.—During the whole of this month, the atmosphere was thick and hazy, and frequently overcast with dense clouds. The temperature of the air was, for the most part, cool, and even cold, with a degree of rawness. During the intervals of the showers, however, when calm, or with only a slight breeze, the air felt sometimes sultry and close. The principal winds were from the S. and W., and generally with a pretty fresh breeze. There were thirty days of rain, the 27th being the only day in which none fell. The 1st, 4th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 24th, 26th, 29th, 30th and 31st, were attended with smart showers. On the 2d, 13th, 21st, 22d and 23d, only slight showers fell; and on the 3d, 5th, 6th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 25th and 28th, there was heavy rain. On the 3d, 6th, 8th, 10th and 27th, thunder and lightning were experienced.

August.—The temperature of the air during this month was generally cool, sometimes chilly and raw. The atmosphere was usually obscured by clouds and haze. The S. was the prevailing wind, and the breeze was generally fresh. The number of rainy days was twenty-nine, of which the 8th, 14th, 22d, 23d, and 31st, were attended with only slight showers. On the 1st, 3d, 9th, 13th, 17th, 20th, and 25th, smart showers fell; and heavy rains on the 2d, 4th, 5th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th. The 21st and 24th were the only fair days, but the 21st was the only one at all clear. There were neither tornadoes nor thunder or lightning during the month.

SEPTEMBER.—The temperature of this month was rather agreeable than distinguished either for heat or chilliness. The atmosphere was frequently obscured with clouds and haze, and the tops of the hills behind the town were covered with fog. There were twenty-six rainy days, of which the 3d, 4th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 20th, 26th, and 28th, had smart showers. The 1st, 2d, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 13th, 15th, 21st, 22d, 24th, 25th, 29th, and 30th, were attended with heavy rain; tornadoes likewise occurred on the 23d, 28th, and 30th; and on the 1st, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 26th, 27th, and 28th, thunder and lightning took place.

The Naturalist's Diary

For SEPTEMBER 1827.

Ruddy September, with wide wicker-maunds, Treads his full orchards now, and at all hours Gathers delicious sweets.

ABUNDANCE of ripe fruit now greets the eye and

offers itself to the 'willing touch;' peaches and nectarines and grapes add to the elegance of the dessert, and gratify the taste by their exquisite flavour. Although we cannot say of England as the poet does of more southern countries,

> Sweet is the vintage, when the showering grapes In Bacchanal profusion reel to earth Purple and gushing,

yet we may cordially agree with the noble author in his characteristic description of our autumn.

An English autumn, though it hath no vines,
Blushing with Bacchant coronals along
The paths, o'er which the far festoon entwines
The red grape in the sunny lands of song,
Hath yet a purchased choice of choicest wines;
The CLARET light, and the MADEIRA strong.

Then, if she hath not the serene decline
Which makes the southern autumn's day appear
As if 'twould to a second spring resign
The season, rather than to winter drear,
Of in-door comforts still she hath a mine.

If we would luxuriate upon the fruit of climes 'nearer the sun,' we must endure the bise and the sirocco, the piercing cold and the burning heat of these regions; and above all, a state of society (if society it may be called) the complete reverse of that which exists in our own happy country. Speaking of Africa, the poet beautifully observes,

There the large olive rains its amber store
In marble fonts; there grain, and flower, and fruit,
Gush from the earth until the land runs o'er;
But there too many a poison tree has root,
And midnight listens to the lion's roar,
And long, long deserts scorch the camel's foot,
Or heaving whelm the helpless caravan,
And as the soil is, so the HEART OF MAN!

BYRON.

Few English travellers, perhaps, will be considered more competent to judge of the advantages of foreign lands, than the late Dr. E. D. CLARKE; his testimony, therefore, in favour of England claims to stand foremost in the list of those merited tributes to the su-

periority of their native land, which Englishmen never fail to offer on their return from foreign climes. In the last volume of his interesting 'Travels' he thus apostrophizes his country:—'Oh England! decent abode of comfort, and cleanliness and decorum!-Oh blessed asylum of all that is worth having upon earth!-Oh sanctuary of religion, and of liberty for the whole civilized world! It is only in viewing the state of other countries that thy advantage can be duly estimated.—May thy sons, who have 'fought the good fight,' but know and guard what they possess in thee!—Oh, land of happy fire-sides, and cleanly hearths, and domestic peace; of filial piety, and paternal love, and connubial joy; the cradle of heros, the school of sages, the temple of law, the altar of faith, the asylum of innocence, the bulwark of private security and of public honour!

Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see, My heart, untravelled, fondly turns to thee.'

An elegant living poet has the following beautiful lines on the subject:—

ALBION! o'er thee profusely Nature showers
Her gifts; with liveliest verdure decks thy soil
With every mingled charm of hill and dale,
Mountain and mead, hoar cliff, and forest wide;
And thine the ruins where rapt genius broods
In pensive haunts romantic: rifted towers,
That, beetling o'er the rock, rear the grey crest,
Embattled; and within the secret glade
Concealed, the abbey's ivy-mantled pile.

On the Cultivation of Vines in the Open Air.

A writer in Mr. Loudon's useful and well-conducted periodical, the 'Gardener's Magazine,' observes, that many years ago he had an extensive range of glass-houses, built chiefly for the cultivation of exotic trees and plants, half of which being removed into the open air for seven months, the rafters were devoted to training vines along them; and the climate being cold and soil unfavourable, namely, one of the more barren districts of Yorkshire, some of the grapes never ripened well, no artificial heat being given, as a far more abundant supply than was wanted ripened in his other frames and hothouses. A very large brick building adjoining

this range of glass was covered entirely with a single vine of the miller's grape, and, as it was ornamental to the building, it was pruned and trained yearly, at no trifling expense, though it very seldom ripened twenty bunches out of from 1000 to 2000, which

it annually bore.

A Scotch nobleman, who often visited the place, one autumn made the following remark, and, I believe, nearly in the following words:- When I was a young lad, I remember eating ripe grapes from a vine in the open airnear Stirling Castle, which was brought to ripen half its crop in most summers, and a whole crop in warmer summers, by the following treatment:-On the 20th of September prune the vine as you would in the month of December, taking off all the leaves and grapes, ripe or unripe, and shortening all the branches to 1, 2, or 3 eyes at most. The following spring it will push its buds a few days before any neighbouring vines pruned in winter. Train it as carefully all the summer as if von were certain it would ripen its crop of fruit. Pursue the same system annually, pruning the tree always between the 20th and 30th of September, and in the course of seven years you will be rewarded for your patience and expense, with half a ripe crop in most summers, and a whole ripe crop in warm summers.'

This mode of treatment was immediately begun in his lordship's presence, and five years afterwards some excellent wine was made

from the grapes.

The only remarks I have to add are,

1st, That sage prince of gardeners, as Linné called him, Philip Miller, informs us, that if the vineyards in the north of France are neglected, it takes seven years' careful pruning and proper treat-

ment to make them ripen their crops of fruit.

2dly, The experienced President of the Horticultural Society has found that all vegetables, which require to be left in a state of inactivity during winter, vegetate sooner in spring, if that state of inactivity is brought on sooner in autumn; hence, though the winter of 1824-5 was so mild, that a small-leaved myrtle and geranium zonale survived in the open air in the court of the writer of this paper near Bryanstone Square, the spring-flowering plants and shrubs, and even the almond trees, blossomed remarkably late. considering the temperature of the season; and what is still more to the point, he observed winter aconites and crocuses in blossom from north of the river Trent so far as York, where the winter had not been so mild as in the southern counties, but several days of continued frost and snow had occurred; those flowers, with the mezereon, being much more advanced than in the gardens and nurseries about London, which were visited the day before he left London.

Sdly, To any person, who wishes to pursue this mode of hastening the maturity of grapes north of Stamford in Lincolnshire, he recommends the cultivation of the miller's or Burgundy grape exolusively; for he has found it unaffected by smart frost, when the shoots of the muscadine and sweet water were injured; and this is easily and physically accounted for by the very thick wool of its

young shoots.

4thly, In the more southern counties, where many varieties of grapes ripen better, still an attention to the practice now recommended, will ensure a superior-flavoured crop; and some of the very best Grisly Frontiniaes he ever tasted, were produced in the late Earl of Tankerville's garden, at Walton-upon-Thames, when under the care of Mr. John Dudgeon, who afterwards lived with Dr. Fothergill.

Toward the end of this month, or the beginning of next, blackberries are ripe, and the collecting of them affords an agreeable pastime to the younger branches of the peasant's family, as well as some small profit to the parents. The poetical son of Crispin, whom we have before noticed, has a very pretty piece on this subject in the 'RURAL PICTURES.'

The BLACKBERRY GATHERERS.

Now on each path the autumn dews are shed. Where withering wild-flowers hang the drooping head, And fading leaves their varied tints display. Where once concealed, to hail the rising day; Though not unheard, the minstrels of the spring Poured their wild notes, and stretched the little wing: But time has hushed the music, and the place They occupied, a bold and thievish race Have since usurped, and, with a chirping joy, Defy the efforts of that simple boy, Who wanders weary round the spacious plain, And wields his gun, and lifts his voice in vain: For well the sparrow-tribe, observant, knows His favourite haunts and seasons of repose; When, lo! escaped the master's rigid rule, The signs of office, and the woes of school, A chosen troop of busy playmates come. To share his little but, or idly roam; Rude but yet cheerful pilgrims of the field, From all but Nature's watchful eye concealed, Whose bounteous hand suspends on every thorn, Bright as the rosy beams of opening morn, A blushing meal, to many a minstrel's eye A strong attraction and a rich supply. Howe'er austere, that suits the sharpened taste Of these wild rovers of the woodland waste;

While the rude brambles, intertwined below, Their sickly fruit in glossy clusters show; And, duly eager of the tempting store, Adventurous hands the thorny maze explore: No envious clouds obscure their opening day. No gathering cares beset their humble way: Joy, uncontrolled, o'er every scene presides, And the calm current of their pleasures guides. Ah! who can tell in that sequestered band, Scattered, like flowers, from autumn's withered hand. That bloom unnoticed, on the joyless ground, Some infant son of genius may be found, Whose guiltless bosom, as he steals along. Or plucks his fruit, or chaunts his artless song, Warmed by a spark of intellectual flame. Swells with delight, and pants for future fame? The solemn grandeur of the mountain's beight. The sun's broad beam, the moon's screner light, The music of the winds, the clouds that roll High o'er his head, engage the stripling's soul; Charms still untold the various scenes endear, And leave a more than common interest there: Perhaps, e'en now, the boast of future days, Among that group some other Bloomfield strays, Destined, like him, to share the muse's smile. And rise a poet in his native isle.

In September and October, the generality of our singing birds are to be no longer distinguished by their voices. One little bird, however, yet delights us with the sweetest harmony: in the calm mornings of this season of the year, the woodlark carols in the air, chiefly in the neighbourhood of thickets and copses. The sweet simple note of the robin is again heard, and the skylark delights us with his melody.

The Short-eared Owl.—This is only seen at Bottisham, observes the Rev. Mr. Jenyns, during the autumnal and winter months, retiring northward in the spring to breed. Though unknown in many parts of England, it is not uncommon throughout the low grounds of Cambridgeshire, where it makes its first appearance towards the latter end of September. In the fens, in the neighbourhood of Littleport, these birds are sometimes found in astonishing plenty, par-

ticularly after those seasons which have been most productive of field mice, which appear to be their favourite food and a great object of attraction. In those districts they are known by the name of *Norway owl*, being supposed to come over to us from that country. Their usual haunts are fields of colesced and turnips, in which situations they may be often put up one after another to the number of fifty or more; but they are never observed in stubbles or amongst trees during the day, though they resort to these last to roost at night, and at such times seem much attached to plantations of spruce firs.

The sulphur butterfly will frequently be seen in September, flitting about the gay flowers of our gardens. The appearance of butterflies late in the season, and particularly during the winter months, is often mentioned in the newspapers as an extraordinary occurrence; but we shall cease to wonder at this circumstance when we become better acquainted with the interesting study of Entomology.—See our last vol.

p. 244.

Much amusement may be derived, in September, from watching the curious operations of the garden spider, and observing the rapidity with which he forms his beautiful web, and the artifices he uses to entangle his victims, entrapping not only the small, defenceless fly, but the armed wasp and honey-laden bee in his gluey toils. An account of a curious experiment respecting the respiration of the spider, may be seen in our last volume, pp. 246, 247.

If the weather is likely to become rainy, windy, or in other respects disagreeable, spiders fix the terminating filaments, on which the whole web is suspended, unusually short. If the terminating filaments are made uncommonly long, the weather will be serene, and continue so at least for ten or twelve days. If spiders be totally indolent, rain generally succeeds; though their activity during rain is certain proof that it will be only of short duration, and followed by fair

and constant weather. Spiders usually make some alterations in their webs every twenty four hours: if these changes take place between the hours of six and seven in the evening, they indicate a clear and plea-

sant night.

The tabani are the terror of our horses and cattle from May to the present time; their proboscis, with which they inflict the wound, is very curious and complex in its structure: various figures of it are given in Mr. Curtis's British Entomology (Pl. 78), as well as a species of a fly new to Britain, called Tabanus alpinus. A species of sphinx, called Ægeria ichneumoniformis, has been taken at Hastings, in Norfolk, and near Bristol (vide Pl. 53). The larvæ of Louhurus pini are found during this month; figures of both sexes of the perfect insect are given in Plate 54; the celebrated De Geer devotes the whole of Tab. 36. v. 2, to the illustration of this species, and his history of it, at p. 971, is not less interesting. The larvæ (says that author) are gregarious, of an obscure ochre colour, with a row of large black spots down the side, when full grown, with another row down the back: they assemble in July upon the branches of the pine. in large troops of more than a hundred. They commonly repose along the leaves, having their heads inclined on one side. They are very voracious, not only devouring the straight leaves of the pine, beginning at the end, as one eats a radish, but also the bark of the young shoots; and after having despoiled the branch of its leaves, they go in a body and fix upon another, until so many branches are stripped that their habitation becomes conspicuous. When touched, they raise their heads, and let flow from their mouths a drop of clear resin, which has the scent and consistence of that exuding from a wounded branch of the pine. In every state the sexes may be known by their size; even the cocoons which are affixed to the branches of the pine are much smaller in the males than the females. The larvæ form cocoons about

September, but they do not change to pupe until the spring; and one of Dr. Leach's caterpillars of L. pal-adus remained two years in that state without nourishment, which could not happen if they were not perfectly secluded from the air. The males bred by De Geer appeared in May, a month before the fe-

males, which did not hatch till June.

Two insects new to Britain have been captured in the New Forest, in September, viz. Bassus calculator (Pl. 73), in the early part, and Aguilus chryseis (Pl. 67), towards the end of the month; the latter insect has also been found in Windsor Forest. About the same period, the beautiful centre-barred sallow (Xanthia centrago, Pl. 84) has been taken in Norfolk and Dorsetshire. A pretty little beetle (Paderus fuscipes, Pl. 108) has been detected in the New Forest, amongst the lichen that clothes the old white-thom bushes.

Scotian Botany for September.

The declining rays of the Sun now shoot but feebly on the earth, and the vegetable creation soon feels and demonstrates the change. Those fields which, a few months ago, bloomed in verdant beauty, now sickly and languid, announce the approach of winter. The gay green of the trees is now acquiring a varied hue, which may be delightful to the eye of the landscape painter, by affording a beautiful variety of light and shade, but to the botanist it recals the gloomy forebodings of the suspension of his enjoyments.

In our fields and pastures, several of those plants which have been already named, may yet be found scattered around; but a few peculiar to this late season still attract our attention. Among these, the Campanula rotundifolia may be named, (the round leaved bell-flower). This plant delights in dry, billy pastures, which it greatly adorns with its white drooping flowers. It is interesting to mark in this, and most campanulated flowers, the care which is taken to protect their important internal organs. They mostly all hang their mouths downwards, thereby acting as umbrellas, and by being attached, in general, by a slender peduncle to their stem, they turn their back to the storm, and thus defend their delicate organs from danger. We may also observe that their pistil is often longer than the stamina, and is most generally turned up at its extremity; by this contrivance, the prolific dust

from the antherse falls directly upon the stigma, which is found at that season to gape, and to be almost always moistened with a viscid liquid, which retains the pollen; and it is through its medium that fecundation takes place. The large showy flowers of the yellow mountain violet (Viola Intex), the mountain ladies' mantle (Alchemilla alpins). and the yellow mountain saxifrage (Saxifraga aixoides), may likewise be met with on similar localities to the last. The flowers of the mountain ladies' mantle resemble very much those of the common ladies' mantle, but the under surface of its leaves is ornamented with a beautiful satiny pubescence. The flowers of the mountain saxifrage are of a bright yellow, with an orange spot on each petal, and grow in a tuft on the top of its stalk.

In moist meadows, the Conyza squarosa (ploughman's spikenard), a symponesious plant, with yellow flowers, may be found, and occasionally the Colchicum autumnale, or meadow saffron: this is a perennial bulbous-rooted plant, belonging to the class Hexandria trigymia. Its flowers, which are purple, spring from the bulb, but its leaves do not appear till the May following, when it is dug up, and used in medicine as a remedy in gout, rheumatism, and dropsy. Its effects on the body are exceedingly various, sometimes acting us an emetic, and often as a diuretic and purgative. In some seasons, it is said to be almost inert, while at other

times its action on the body is very powerful.

The common ivy (Hedera helix) is now about to put forth its small green flowers; this well-known, elegant, climbing shrub, is universally admired, especially when covering the trunks and branches of our tallest trees with its green foliage, or tying the trunks and to the common towers of our antient ruins with its twisted branches. Lightfoot informs us, that in some parts of the Highlands its leaves are made into an ointment for the cure of burns.

The round-leaved winter green (Pyrola rotundifolia) is not uncommon in woods or shady places; it belongs to the class Decandria monogynia. Its flowers are white and spreading; its taste

is very astringent, and it was formerly used in medicine.

Upon the sea shore the Aster trepolium (sea starwort), and the Statice armaria (thrift, or sea gillyflower), spangle the verdant shore without the sea mark. The flowers of the aster have yellow centres surrounded by purple rays, and grow on a loose head, from two to six inches from the ground. Its leaves are linear, and much crowded at the bottom. The statice grows most abundantly beside the former plant; its leaves are also linear, and grow in a thick tuft. Its flowers are reddish, and form a round head upon its stem, which is from two to six inches in height. This plant is frequently employed by gardeners to edge walks, for which purpose it answers very well; but it is said greatly to encourage snails. Both the aster and statice are also to be found in abundance on the tops of our highest mountains, and are therefore de-

signated by Lightfoot, 'the most humble and most lefty of plants. In muddy situations on the shore, the Glaux maritima, or black saltwort, abounds. Its flowers are sessile, and solitary, and are composed of five rose-coloured petals. Its stem is procumbent and reddish, and its leaves are small, fleshy, and entire. In the salt water ditches the grass-wrack (Zoostera marina), and the sea ruppia (R. maritima), are very common.

The flowers of the zoostera are small and green; its leaves are long and linear, and have of late been much employed to fill mattrasses, and suit well for packing brittle articles. The stem of the ruppia is filiform; its leaves are bristly, and two naked green flowers are supported by the flowering spike, which afterwards lengthens, and becomes spirally twisted, in order that it may ac-

commodate itself to the rising and falling of the water.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCTS, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL. Sentember.

The rains subside considerably in this month; they are lighter, and not so frequent as in the two past months. The wind is also light and variable. The thermometer ranges from 76 in the morning to 84 in the evening. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta 5 h. 58 m.; sets 6 h. 2 m.

Meat market indifferent; potatoes not eatable; yams come in about this time, and supply their place. In the fruit market small oranges make their appearance; custard-apples, pine-apples, pumplenose, &c. continue in season.—The fish market improves a little; the becktee becomes larger and firmer. The following are now procurable at market: the bholah, dessy tangrah, konteh, bhengirs, gungtorah, kowel, toontee, pyrah-chondeh, and also the shell fish, boodye chingney.—Light rains.—Fair.—Cloudy.—Fair weather.—Light rains.—Fair.—Cloudy.

OCTOBER.

OCTOBER was named, like the preceding month, from the place it occupied in the Romulean calendar; it was the eighth. *Mars* was its tutelar deity. *Scorpio* is the sign into which the Sun enters during this month.

Remarkable Bays

· In OCTOBER 1827.

1.—SAINT REMIGIUS.

REMIGIUS, the great apostle of the French, was born in 439, and was chosen Archbishop of Rheims at 22 years of age. He died in his 96th year

6.—SAINT FAITH.

This virgin martyr suffered death under Dacianus, about the year 290, the most cruel torments being inflicted upon her.

*6. 1826.—FAREWELL TO NORMANDY, BY J. H. WIFFEN,

Honorary Member of the Society of Antiquaries of Normandy, &c. &c.

[This elegant tribute to the picturesque beauties of Normandy, and the friendly and hospitable character of its inhabitants, was privately printed at Paris, and is now, for the first time, given to the English public.]

Yet once again, my lyre, from thee
A lay of sadness I demand;
Speak! 'tis delightful Normandy
Requires thy voice, inspires my hand.
There many a thrilling scene I've passed,
Crag, castle, stream, and forest-dell,
Now my charmed eyes have looked their last,
And thou must bid her shores farewell;
Fond Memory's wine-cup pass we round,
Although the guest's no longer gay;
Farewell Ardenne's monastic ground!
Adieu to ruined Fontenay!

By pleasant Bull's oak-crowned height, Mild may the river warble still; And yet the wild-bee wing its flight Each morn to Hamars' thymy bill; Sweet, sweet on CLINCHAMP fall the dew, And many a prayer, La Lande-Patry, Be offered up to heaven anew Around thy centenarian tree!

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No more on PLESSIS' fatal plain May buckler flash, or war-horn bray; Farewell PONT-D'OUILLY'S rich domain! Adieu the pomp of POMMERAYE!

The kindest heart, the noblest head,
Has fashioned there a mountain-home,
And bade the bowers more greenly apread,
The waters more divinely roam;
Where warred the Frank round CHATEAU-GANNE.

His smile endeared the storied scene;—
No more with thee those towers to scan,

Adieu, beloved SAINT HONORINE!
Rest happy in thy cell that yields
More peace than regal halls display!

Farewell Val-Pichard's verdant fields!
Added the hum of thronged Guibray!

Reclining on the rocks, FALAISE,
'That front thy still majestic towers,
Ah me! what dreams of other days
Shed glory on the passing hours!
The windowed keep, the yawning breach,
Moss-mantled vault, and chiming bell,
Creneille, crag, moat, and dungeon, each
Had some old feudal tale to tell:
Whilst in each form that stood beside

Thy fountains dancing into day, So quaintly coifed, methought I spied Thy peasant-princess of Verfrey.

It was a pride—I ask not why—
To stand where stood her potent son,
And think that Time himself must die,
Ere three such realms again he won:
But let that pass—I sigh to quit
The soil that hore the wondrous man.

The soil that bore the wondrous man; For still before my memory flit

The forms of cheerful Langevin, And those whose kindnesses no song From lips like mine can o'er repay; Farewell, accomplished Galleron! Adieu the halls of mild Fresnay!

Away! away! in Albion's skies
I ne'er shall think, without a tear
Fresh gushing to my grateful eyes,
On thee, thrice charming VAL-DE-VIRE.

Thy ruined castle, old and hoar,
Thy terraced hills, thy gardens green,

Thy stream, that, murmuring evermore, Seems loth to leave the enchanted scene; And, dearer far than tower or tree,
The friends that charmed my heart away;—
Farewell, fraternal D'ISIGNY!
Adien to laurelled CHENEDOLIE²!

Long to the Muse by Dirce's spring
Be your melodious vows preferred;
Long live to touch as sweet a string
As Norman fingers e'er have stirred!
How fast the hours, Lenormand, flew
In talking o'er each ghostly tale,
Which once perchance delighted too
The Hafiz of thy native vale!
Whilst Basselin's cittern charms the sad,
Whilst still Chênedollé wears the bay,
VIRE still shall be my Rocnabad,
SAINT-MARTIN'S bowers my Mosellay!

One night within thy guarded walls,
O MOUNT-SAINT-MICHAEL! now is more
To me, than in Arabian halls
Whole heaps of legendary lore.
No mail-clad knight from Palestine,
No sandalled monk from fabled lands,
With bosom more devout than mine
E'er crossed thy blue and channelled sands;
Chiefs, kings, and cowled hierarchies
Of yore seemed marshalling my way,
As barefoot, too, in pilgrim guise,
I paused before thy turrets gray.

There stood'st thou, Nature's hermit-king;
The worship of a world, that deemed
In glory at thy feet to fling
What richest flashed, or brightest gleamed!
The towers thy guards; thy throne of fame
The pyramid of rocks that soar
To heaven; and on thy brows the same
Rich Gothic mitre as of yore;
But of the millions that obeyed
Thy awful crosier, where are they?—
Enough! I mean not to upbraid
The nations with thine antient sway.

^{&#}x27;A distinguished living poet of France, author of 'La Genie de l'Homme,' and other Poems: he is at present engaged on a Poem, in twelve books, on the Siege of Jerusalem by Titus.

Still let the village-girls repair
To hang with flowers the' Archangel's shrine,
And home in bright remembrance bear
Thy shells, unblamed by lyre of mine;
For in thy bosom rest in bliss
Old Hugh de Rosel's honoured bones,
And many a mass for him and his
Have murmured o'er thy chancel-stones:
And I myself (let greybeards smile)
The like memorials bear away,—
Farewell, farewell, time-hallowed pile!
Adieu, thou wild blue Norman bay!

On Geanville's waves at noon of night How gaily did the moonbeams glance! How sweetly smiled the morning light On thy cathedral-spires, Coutances! Blest be the antiquarian scrolls

That fill thy storied tower, Saint-Loo, The wave in Cesar's Port that rolls,

The breeze that blows on high Pieux;

And, heard at evening's twilight meal,

The maid of Rozel's pastoral lay!

Farewell the rocks of Flamanville!

Adieu the woods of Brahouetray!

Enriched with heaven's divinest dyes,
I saw, and blessed the soothing hour,
When, BRIQUEBEC, in eve's stormy skies
The rainbow spanned thy donjon-tower;
As from a distant world it came,
Around thy rifted walls to throw
A halo of thy former fame —
A smile on thy wild check of woe.
Time was, thy Lion used to shine
The first in every martial fray;
Now farewell Bertrand's noble line!
Adieu the Lords of VAL-DE-SEYE!

Beneath Aurora's kindling smile,
From steep Saint Catharine's sward, impearled,
ROUEN! 'twas worth an angel's while
To gaze upon thy glorious world:
Here, midst its gay green islets, flowed,
For leagues, thy stream of sapphire; there,
Thy gothic fanes majestic showed,
Like fairy fabrics poised in air.

Thy pomp the' horizon scarce confined;
On bark and bower the sunshine lay,
And stamped in colours on my mind
A picture ne'er to pass away.

Then came thy dead, whose ashes yet
Thou lov'st—thy. Pirate-patriarch,
Our lion-souled Plantagenet,
And France's martyred Joan of Arc!
Across thought's magic glass, in pride,
But with a face so full of woe,
Her laurelled ghost was seen to glide,
Its shape disturbed the' enchanted show;
Now farewell both! the living claim
A debt the Muse is proud to pay;
All hail, Le Prevor's noble name,
And courteous Frere and learned Licquer!

That fatal steep I gained at length,
With bliss to pain how near allied,
Up which, with superhuman strength,
The lover bore his promised bride;
Fond, faithful pair! around your tomb
The poplars sigh; the waters moan;
And, sorrowing for your piteous doom,
Impassioned Echo soothes her, own;
Here raised the sire his cloistered cell,
To vain Remorse a lingering prey;
And duly tolled the convent-bell
To chase her haunting fiends away.

My eager step and asking eye
The Lady of the Mount discerned,
As towards distant Romilly
Askance her optic tube she turned:
Curious her garden-walls I scanned;
She hailed me in my native tongue;
And quick, with hospitable hand,
The grated portals open flungEnough—'tis past! a sweet adieu
These leaves of ever-living bay,
Plucked from the spot, breathe forth to you
Les Deux Amans! benign Laibne!

But to bid farewell to thy towers,
O CHATBAU-GAILLARD! is to sweep
Away the joys of countless hours
Passed on thy high and hoary steep.
Time has dealt harshly with thy state,
Darling of England! yet Renown
Is grown thy vassal, nor can Fate
Yet rob thee of that antient frown

Which made thee fearful: on thy brow Sits pride, whilst Freedom loves to say, Of all her Norman holds, the last Wert thou to own the' invader's sway.

Wert mou to own the invader's sway.

Born in one summer, and baptized
In Peril's scorn, to all attacks
Proof, save neglect's, thy strength disguised
Yet mocks the Goth's dismantling axe.
'Tis well! where Cœur-de-Lion dwelled,
And brave De Lacy fought, each stone,
Spared by the piety of Eld,
Should be preserved as Glory's own.
And dear be ev'n the weeds that creep
Amongst the crags I quit!—for aye
Farewell thy vines along the steep!
Adieu thy bluebells on the brae!

Now break the Cup! the spell is past;
The guest gone by; the banquet o'er;
Tis vain! 'tis vain! the fragments cast
Yet brighter lights than beamed before.
Then send them round like rosary-beads
Dissevered from their native string,
And, as from friend to friend proceeds
Each glittering relic, should it bring
But back one kind warm wish, rude lyre,
I will not chide thy lengthened lay,
Though vacant of celestial fire:
Now hush thy strings—the hills grow gray!

*7. 1826.—CHARLES CONNOR DIED,

The best representative of Irishmen the Stage of the present day could boast. He had been well educated, and possessed a mind of a superior order, and (what is but too rare in the profession to which he belonged) his private life was amiable and irreproachable.—The following observations, from a contemporary Journalist, elicited our admiration so strongly, that we could not resist the temptation of introducing them here:—

'The approach of Death, sure and awful as his coming is, may be so modified by grief, and sickness, and suffering, that, if met as a release from worldly ill, it becomes a long expected calamity, for which the human mind gradually prepares itself, and the

beloved object of their solicitude quits his wife and children on the mysterious journey to a better world; bestowing his blessings, and hearing their supplications for his eternal happiness; but when in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, all that was gay and animated—all that was good and talented—the fond husband, the affectionate parent—the kind friend, is struck without a moment's warning, and falls a lifeless corpse in the public street; the shock given is not only felt by his agonised relations and his suffering friends—the community feels it, and an intense interest is excited by the dreadful event. Among all such occurrences of which we have heard, the instantaneous death of Mr. Connor is one of the most moving. After enjoying an evening of social conversation and amusement, the words 'good night' scarce off his lips, and the positive engagement for the morrow fixed; he quits the house of his friend to return to his wife and family. If his suffering in the death he died was nothing (which in all human pro-bability it was), think what the situation of his family must have been; expecting the well-known step of the good husband-of the kind father-and instead of welcoming him, to hear that 'he was dead,'gone for ever-never, never again to be looked upon -his voice never again to be heard! What a house of mourning must that be !--its master dead in the streets, and stretched on a strange bed in an hosvital! If this happened in high life, amongst the wealthy and the influential, the horror would be as severe, the consequences the same, and in domestic grief there would be no difference: but to those who. unallied by relationship and unconnected even in acquaintance with the subject of our present consideration, can look at the desolation more steadily, how much more dreadful is the visitation; when, besides all the feelings, all the affections, all the ties which are at once violated by it, the survivors are plunged into poverty instantaneously—from comfort and competence into absolute distress; for he that a little week ago gave them food and raiment, is in his soffin—in

his grave!

Mr. Connor died in his 35th year, leaving a widow and children wholly unprovided for, to whom 'a Benefit' was given at the Lyceum Theatre: many poetic Addresses were written to be spoken on the melancholy occasion, but none were selected for that purpose. The following, with which we have been favoured, is from the pen of Mr. RICHARD RYAN, and is certainly equally creditable to that yentleman's feelings and poetic ability.

How pitcous is the Actor's lot !—at best, A little moment flattered and careased, Conscious throughout his quickly passing day That all his powers soon will fade away, And leave his helpless and declining years Bereft of all, but misery and tears.

The thought is mournful; but severer far Is his dread lot, on whom kind Fortune's star Hath smiled serenely, chasing every gloom, And bade him count on happy years to come, O'er which perspective Fancy flings her light, And shows a calm without one storm to blight; But in the midst of this enchanting dream, When all to aid the fond delusion seem, Death sudden rises, grasps the viewless dart, And pierces, pitiless, his victim's heart. Such was the path in which he lately moved, By you respected, and by us beloved; His prospects thus were with each hope elate, And, ah! thus awful was our brother's fate.

If e'er you saw, with agonized eye,
The form you leved most, before you die,
And in that grief-fraught minute saw decay
Your heart's sole hope, your children's prop and stay;
You can feel for her, who by this decree
Is left to widowhood and misery;
You can feel for them, too, who are hurled,—
Poor helpless orphans!—to the pitying world,
To you we Fair to you they trembling sue:

To you, ye Fair, to you they trembling sue; Is it in vain they make the prayer to you? Will you not take up warm the Widow's cause, And act thus glorious up to Nature's laws?

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You will, I'm sure. And you of manhood's form, Whose boast should be, to shelter from the storm The helpless—and to guide thro' every pain, Say, can the Widow and the Orphan sue in vain?

9.—SAINT DENYS.

Saint Denys, or Dionysius, was converted during Paul's preaching at Athens (Acts xvii, 34). He fell a martyr under the persecution of Domitian, A.D. 96.

11.-OLD MICHAELMAS DAY,

Still observed, in many places, as the end of one year, and beginning of another, in hiring servants.

13.—TRANSLATION OF KING EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.

This monarch, called Confessor on account of his piety, was the son of Etheldred, and succeeded Hardicanute in 1041. He rebuilt Westminster Abbey, and was the first that was buried in the new building in 1066.—See our last volume, p. 250.

*14. 1788.—ROBERT MILLHOUSE BORN.

In T. T. for 1824, p. 257, 258, we inserted a brief notice of this self-taught and deserving author, accompanied with some pleasing specimens of his poems: another small volume having lately appeared, we have much pleasure in introducing it to the notice of our readers. It is entitled the 'Song of the Patriot, Sonnets, and Sougs, and is quite worthy the attention of those who can be pleased with the effusions of an untaught bard, who sings the beauties of Nature and the wonders of Creation, in language not unworthy of his sublime and interesting subject; but our readers shall judge for themselves; and, having done this, we are confident they will hasten to obtain Mr. Millhouse's pretty pocket volume, and thus lend their timely and fostering protection to genius struggling with, and almost sinking under, the difficulties of a selfish and heartless world. The bard's feminiscence of his early years, in the 'Song of the Patriot,'

abounds with feeling, taste, and poetry;—it needs only to be read to be admired and appreciated.

Well I remember, in my youthful hours, Ere yet in numbers I essayed to sing, At that glad season, when fresh opening flowers And hawthorn buds proclaimed the birth of Spring; While light-heeled Pleasures coursed their mystic ring, And my young heart was folicksome as May, Oft have I watched the lark, on anxious wing, Ascend his azure steep at early day,

Piping aloud to Heaven in many a carol gay.

Joyous I've found the glossy crocus, blowing
Fair in its bed of green; and onward strayed
To sunny dells, where April's hand was throwing
Violets of virgin sweetness, and surveyed
The pale-eyed primrose, glinting in the glade:
Daisies, vermilion-tinged, were deemed a prize,
And plucked in triumph; while the sloe-bloom made
Garlands for mating birds, and thence would rise
Vouchings of purest love in anthems to the skies.

And, at sweet May-tide, when the cowslip hung Its head in pensiveness, and crowflowers bright Along th' expanse of lengthening meads were flung, Mingled with ladysmocks, and daisies white, Lambsfoot, and speedwell, and the lovely sight Of hawthorn blossom, fragrant on the gale Of eve; full oft I've wandered with delight; Nor, time regretting, will I e'er bewail

Those hours I loitering spent in woodland meed and dale.

And oft, in summer hours, I've sauntered forth
Along the thorn hedge, or beside the grove,
To hail the damask wild-rose at its birth,
Symbol of innocence and maiden love,
And of that chastity which reigns above:
Or sought the woodbine, in its bower o'ershaded,
Where stretching far its wanton arms would rove;
Till, haply, by some peasant's hand invaded,
'Twas torn from out the folds with which its tendrils braided.

Nor will my mind surrender up, in haste,
The recollection of Autumnal views,
Save by oblivion, not to be effaced;
The sloping sunbeams, and the varied hues
Of fading landscapes, and the misty dews
Hung on the threads of gossamer; the flowers
Withering in death; till Nature should infuse
Into their roots her renovating powers,
And paint afresh the plains, and re-adorn the bowers.

Dearly, I love you! native fields, and groves, And hills, and dales, and meads of fairest bloom, Where Spring's first flowers enjoy their nuptial loves, And June's bright children Summer winds perfume: In some still nook of yours, be this my doom, When life's frail energies shall make a stand, To find a rural solitary tomb,

Where waving trees their branching arms expand, To screen my sunless house, and deck the matchless land.

*15. 1716.—THREE-END COACHES.

The following curious advertisement, extracted from the 'Daily Courant' of October 15, 1716, may, perhaps, amuse our readers, as it will prove the immense improvement which has taken place in stage-coach matters within the last century. A public conveyance to Bath, in the year 1716, seems to have been a circumstance worthy of formal announcement, and probably of no common occurrence. 'A THREE-END COACH and SIX HORSES sets out on Thursday next, the 18th instant, at six o'clock, for the Bath, from the sign of the Coach and Six Horses, in Wood-Street: If any gentleman has occasion to go thither, shall be KINDLY used by John Tea.'

In the Oxford Almanack for I692 is the following notice:—'From our Lady-day unto Michaelmas, the coaches go every day in the week between Oxford and London, and carry passengers in one day, every passenger paying ten shillings. But after Michaelmas unto our Lady-day, the coaches go out every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; and carry passengers in two days, each passenger paying ten shillings.' The stage-coaches were ordered to set out at 9 o'clock in the morning, and the carriers were 'to take care that passengers be conveyed to their respective stages, safe and in seasonable time.' Four shillings was the price of conveyance by the waggon.

17.—SAINT ETHELDREDA.

Etheldreda was daughter of Annas, King of the

East Angles, and lived under a vow of perpetual chastity. She erected an abbey at Ely, and died there in 679.

18.—SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST.

The period and manner of the death of St. Luke are alike unknown. His festival was first instituted A.D. 1130.

*19. 1826.—F. J. TALMA DIED.

Talma was born in Paris on the 15th of January. 1769. He was taken to England when very young, but soon returned to France, where he completed his When Talma was about ten years old, and was entering college, he first felt and proved his vocation to be the drama. The instructions of the most learned and judicious masters were not lost on him. His first débût in a French scene was in 1787. The commencement of his profession is thus spoken of: 'He has succeeded in tragedy and comedy. Besides his other natural endowments, he has an agreeable figure, a voice at once sonorous and audible, with a pure and distinct enunciation. He feels the harmony of versification, and can communicate such feelings to others. His deportment is simple, his action natural. He is always in good taste, and has no mannerism, being an imitator of no actor, but using his own discretion and abilities.' Talma was peculiarly distinguished in the part of Saide. He was passionately fond of the theatre, and had a great ambition to extend the limits of a profession to which he was about to become so great an ornament. Being on the most intimate terms with literary men and the most celebrated painters and sculptors of the day, he resolved, in the very commencement of his career, to offect a revolution in the costume of the stage, which had been scarcely commenced by Lecain and Madame Clairon, according to the advice of Marmontel. In spite, therefore, of Gothic usages, and to the great

m standal of the old people accustomed to French tragedy, Talma, who had gained some confidence in the tragedy of Brutus, had the courage to appear in a veritable Roman toga. From that moment may be dated the great intimacy that has existed between the most distinguished actor of the present day and the greatest painter of the French school. both advanced the science in which they were respectively so eminent, by the most simple, natural, and correct representations.—Courier Français.

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25.—SAINT CRISPIN.

There is a curious anecdote relative to this day in T. T. for 1816, p. 291. See also T. T. for 1824, p. 259.

28.—saint simon and saint jude, Apostles.

The Simon here meant is Simon the Canaanite, or Simon Zelotes. He and Jude both suffered martyrdom together in Persia, about the year 74. Respecting the influence of these saints upon the weather. see our last volume.

Astronomical Occurrences

In OCTOBER 1827.

The day is thine, and the night is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun.—Psalm lxxiv, 17.

SOLAR PHRNOMENA.

THE Sun enters Scorpio at 36 m. past 4 in the meraing of the 24th of this month; and he will be eclipsed in the afternoon of the 20th, but the eclipse will not be visible in this country. The conjunction will take place at 47½ m. past 3, in longitude 6 260 281, the Moon's latitude at the time being 481 south. The Sun will be centrally eclipsed on the meridian at 21 m. after 4, in longitude 65° 14½' west, and latitude 69° 40' south; the eclipse will therefore be a large one in many parts of the southern hemisphere. The Sun also rises and sets, during this month, as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun's Rising and Setting for every fifth Day.

October	1st,	Sun rises	11	m. after	6.	Śets	49	m. after 5
	6th,		22		6	• • • •	3 8	5
	11th,		32	,	6		28	5
	16th,		4 1		6		19	5
	21st		δĭ		6	• • • •	9	5
	26th,		. 1		7	• • • •	59	4
	31st,		11		7	• • • •	49	4.

Equation of Time.

As the equation of time expresses the difference between apparent and true time, by employing it as directed in the following table, the hour which should be indicated by a well-regulated clock will immediately be found from that given by a good sun-dial. The correction for the intermediate days or hours must be obtained by proportion.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

Monday, October 1st	from	the:time by	the dial subtract	10 9
Saturday, 6th,				11 41
Thursday, 11th.				13 4
Tuesday, 16th	• • • • •			14 14
Sunday, 21st.				15 10
Friday 26th				
Wednesday 31st				16 12

LUNAR PHENOMENA.

Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon,	5th day, at 19 m. after	2 in the morning
Last Quarter,	18th 17	1
New Moon,	20th 47	8 in the afternoon
First Quarter	, 27th 48	9 in the morning

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The Moon will pass the first meridian at the fellowing times this month, which may be employed by our young astronomers as seasons of observation, should the weather prove fine.

October 1st, at	23 m. after	9 in the evening
2d,	13	10
3d	3	11
	82	5 in the morning
13th,	19	6
		7
15th,	51	7
	86	
	89	
26th,	37	5
27th,	32	6
	24	7 in the evening
29th,	14	8
30th,	3	9
	51	

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The following are the times of high water at London Bridge for both morning and afternoon of every fifth day of the month. Those for the intermediate days, and other places, must be found as already directed.

TABLE OF TIDES.

Morning.	Afternoon.
October 1st, at 2 m. after	11 85 m. after 11
6th, 59	2 14 8
	5 12 6
	10 6 11
21st, 39	2 2 3
26th, 22	6 52 6
	11 0 0

PLANETARY PHENOMENA.

Phases of Venus.

The following is the relative proportion of the phases of this planet for

October 1st, { Illuminated part = 11.99266 | Dark part.... = 0.00734

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

Jupiter is too near the Sun during this month to allow any of the eclipses of his satellites to be visible.

Form of Saturn's Ring.

October 1st { Transverse axis = 1.000 Conjugate axis = 0.443

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

October 20th, with Venus at 11 at night 27th, \$\beta\$ in Capricorn 7 in the morning.

Other Phenomena.

Georgium Sidus will be stationary on the 4th of this month. Mercury and Jupiter will be in conjunction with each other on the 7th; and Venus will be in her superior conjunction at 10 in the morning of the same day. Saturn will be in quadrature at a quarter past 2 in the morning of the 14th. Venus and Jupiter will be in conjunction at 1 in the morning of the 16th, when they will have a near appulse. Georgium Sidus will be in quadrature at 30 m. past 12 on the 18th; and Jupiter will be in conjunction at 45 m. after 10 in the evening of the same day.

The following lines are from the pen of Mr. RIOHARD RYAN, and were written expressly for our work.

> The Sun that lends this earth his light. And fades at the approach of night, Declares to all the gladsome land A God, and an almighty hand. The countless hosts that in the sky Move on, in bright revolve on high, Declare, at midnight's silent hour, A God, and an almighty power. When thunders roll along the ground, And lightnings fearful flash around, In ev'ry bright gleam man may see The right hand of the Deity. The sheeted hail—the snow-storm dire. The mountain waves-the orb of fire. Proclaim, in that affrighted hour, A God, and an almighty power. Then may each bold and impious man, Who sceptic shall these glories scan, Forsake his false and guilty lore, And meekly tremble and adore.

The Naturalist's Diary

For OCTOBER 1827.

All the woods are hung With many thats, the fading livery Of life, in which it mourns the coming storms Of winter, and the quiet winds awake Paint dirges in their withered isayes, and breathe Their sorrows though the groves.

PERCIVAL.

DELIGHTING in trees, says an elegant modern writer, I must more than others grieve for their loss; and a storm awakens in me almost the fears of those whose friends are mariners. I dread to see the shivered tops and the scattered boughs. The great tree torn up by its roots, lying in gigantic strength along the ground it yesterday shaded—rending the green-sward into an unsightly broken mound-showing the strong hold in the earth which it had firmly grappled, now broken and for ever destroyed, is to me a sight the most mournful: it seems to me almost the overthrow of a living being of power and might, so long had it stood erect and nobly immovable in the war of elements. The pride of its foliage, the majesty of its leafy head, now low in the dust, are indeed piteous to behold. The storms it has so often braved at last prevail; and by one dread gust it falls before the breath of Heaven—that invisible agent. which then appears even yet more awful than in its howling terrors, that shake even the just to hearthat fill the mind of the most hardened with ideas of avenging power-that awaken deep thankfulness for our own shelter, while the heart rises with commiseration for the seaman, and for the inhabitant of the poor thatched dwelling, whose roof flies before the blast like stubble, and leaves him shivering in misery and affright. 'The wind bloweth where it listeth. and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth.' How truly does the poet Burns express the impulse of religion in the winter blast! he felt what all must feel whose hearts and minds are alive to Nature: we bow in adoration before the Being who 'rideth on the wings of the wind.'

These are the most striking effects of the music of the storm upon the forest, the Eolian harp of Nature. But there are as deep, though more gentle, feelings called up

> When the sweet wind doth gently kiss the trees, And they do make no noise.

The benign mercy of the Almighty then comes to our breast with a sweetness of devotion, which neither all the pomp of architecture nor the melody of skilful choirs can awaken in an equal degree. We walk under the canopy of Heaven, hung with the rich carving of the leaves. The Jewish Temple had all its ornaments fashioned after the semblance of Nature. The palm-tree—the blossoms and fruit of the clustering almond—the beauty of the flower of the field—were the models followed in that glorious edifice, which yet came not up to the magnificence of shrine still possessed by the Gentile.

It is in the forest, also, that Spring exhibits all the beauty of awakening creation;—with the wood is associated the new life of animated nature;—'the still small voice' of speechless adoration, expressed in joyful existence, there sounds in our ears. The luxuriant prodigality of vegetation—its, beautiful hue's and forms—its rich and varied perfumes—all unite to charm the senses and the soul; and, in despite of the sins and sufferings of weak or guilty man, we there feel our hearts elevated to sublimity, and acknowledge, with the delightful emotions of true reli-

gion, that 'God is Love.'

There are numerous beautiful allusions in Scripture to trees. The goodly tree, whose branches spread, and whose leaves do not wither, is frequently used as the image of the virtuous man; and the

mind, while it mourns the fall of what was so flourishing, contrasts it with the destiny of the man it typifies. He too is crushed to the earth by sorrow or misfortune;—but while the tree falls never again to raise its head, the nobler work of God is struck down to ascend the higher; he is smitten for his welfare; he sinks, to rise to glory, honour, and immortality.

A Day in a Tropical Forest.

The naturalist, who is here for the first time, does not know whether he shall most admire the forms, hues, or voices of the animals: except at noon, when all living creatures in the torrid zone seek shade and repose, and when a solemn silence is diffased over the scene, illumined by the dazzling beams of the sun, every hour of the day calls into action another race of animals. The morning is ushered in by the howling of the monkeys, the high and deep notes of the tree-frogs and toads, the monotonous chirp of the grasshoppers and locusts. When the rising sun has dispelled the mists which preceded it, all creatures rejoice in the return of day. The wasps leave their long nests which hang down from the branches; the ants issue from their dwellings, curiously built of clay, with which they cover the trees, and commence their journey on the paths they have made for themselves, as is done also by the termites which cast up the earth high and far around. The gayest butterflies, rivalling in splendour the colours of the rainbow, especially numerous hesperiæ, flutter from flower to flower, or seek their food on the roads, or, collected in separate companies on the sunny sand-banks of the cool streams. The blue, shining Menelaus, Nestor, Adonis, Laertes, the bluish-white Idea, and the large Eurylochus, with its ocellated wings, hover like birds between the green bushes in the moist valleys. The Feronia, with rustling wings, flies rapidly from tree to tree, while the owl sits immovably on the trunk with outspread wings awaiting the approach of evening. Myriads of the most brilliant beetles buzz in the air, and sparkle like jewels on the fresh green of the leaves, or on the odorous flowers. Meantime, agile lizards, remarkable for their form, size, and brilliant colours; dark-coloured, poisonous or harmless serpents, which exceed in splendour the enamel of the flowers, glide out of the leaves, the hollows of the trees, and holes in the ground, and, creeping up the stems, bask in the sun, and lie in wait for insects and birds. From this moment all is life and activity. Squirrels, and troops of gregarious monkeys, issue inquisitively from the interior of the woods to the plantations, and leap. F f

whistling and chattering, from tree to tree. Gallinaceous jacus, boccos, and pigeons, leave the branches and wander about on the moist ground of the woods. Other birds of the most singular forms, and of the most superb plumage, flutter singly, or in companies, through the fragrant bushes. The green, blue, or red parrots, assemble on the tops of the trees, or, flying towards the plantations and islands, fill the air with their screams. The toucan, sitting on the extreme branches, rattles with his large hollow bill, and in loud, plaintive notes calls for rain. The busy orioles creep out of their long, pendent, bag-shaped nests, to visit the orange trees, and their sentinels announce with a loud screaming cry the approach of man. The flycatchers sitting aloof, watching for insects, dart from the trees and shrubs, and, with rapid flight, catch the hovering Menelaus, or the shining flies, as they buzz by. Meantime, the amorous thrush, concealed in the thicket, pours forth her joy in a strain of beautiful melody; the chattering manakins, calling from the close bushes, sometimes here, sometimes there, in the full tones of the nightingale, amuse themselves in misleading the hunters; and the woodpecker makes the distant forests resound while he picks the bark from the trees. Above all these strange voices, the metallic tones of the urapanga sound from the tops of the highest trees, resembling the strokes of the hammer on the anvil, which appearing nearer, or more remote, according to the position of the songster, fill the wanderer with astonishment. While thus every living creature by its actions and voice greets the splendour of the day, the delicate humming birds, rivalling in beauty and lustre diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires, hover round the brightest flowers. When the sun goes down, most of the animals retire to rest; only the slender deer, the pecari, the timid agouti, and the tapir, still graze around; the nasua and the opossum. the cunning animals of the feline race, steal through the obscurity of the wood watching for prey, till at last the howling monkeys, the sloth, with the cry as of one in distress, the croaking frogs, and the chirping grasshoppers with their monotonous note, conclude the day; the cries of the macuc, the capueira, the goat-sucker, and the bass tones of the bull-frog, announce the approach of night. Myriads of luminous beetles now begin to fly about like ignes fatul, and the blood-sucking bats hover, like phantoms, in the profound darkness of the night.—Caldcleugh's Travels in Brazil.

At the beginning of this month, or latter end of September, some summer birds of passage, of which the swallow is the first, take their departure for warmer regions. The time of their leaving this country varies in different seasons; it is sometimes protracted till the end of October or the beginning of November, and swallows have been seen, in mild weather, to congregate, previously to taking their departure, so late as the middle of December.—See T.T. for 1825, p. 259.

Dr. Percival, the American poet before quoted, has some very pleasing lines on the swallow:—

Oh! had I the wings of a swallow, I'd fly
Where the roses are blossoming all the year long,
Where the landscape is always a feast to the eye,
And the bills of the warblers are ever in song;
O! then would I fly from the cold and the snow,
And hie to the land of the orange and vine,
And carol the winter away in the glow,

That rolls o'er the ever-green bowers of the line. Indeed, I should gloomily steal o'er the deep.

Like the storm-loving petrel, that skims there, alone;
I would take me a dear little martin to keep
A sociable flight to the tropical zone:
How cheerily, wing by wing, over the sea

We would fly from the dark clouds of winter away, And for ever our song and our twitter should be, 'To the land where the year is eternally gay.'

We would nestle awhile in the jessamine bowers,
And take up our lodge in the crown of the palm,
And live, like the bee, on its fruits and its flowers,
That always are flowing with honey and balm;
And there we would stay, till the winter is o'er,

And April is chequered with sunshine and rain—
O! then we would fit from that far-distant shore
Over island and wave to our country again.

How light we would skim, where the billows are rolled Through clusters that bend with the cane and the lime; And break on the beaches in surges of gold,

When morning comes forth in her loveliest prime:
We would touch for awhile, as we traversed the ocean,

At the islands that echoed to Waller and Moore,
And winnow our wings with an easier motion
Through the breath of the cedar that blows from the shore.

And when we had rested our wings, and had fed
On the sweetness that comes from the juniper groves,
By the spirit of home and of infancy led,
We would hurry again to the land of our loves;

And when from the breast of the ocean would spring, Far off in the distance, that dear native shore, In the joy of our hearts we would cheerily sing, 'No land is so lovely, when winter is o'er'.'

The throstle, the red-wing, and the field-fare, which migrated in March, now return; and the ring-ouzel arrives from the Welsh and Scottish Alps to winter in more sheltered situations. About the middle of the month, the common martin disappears; and, shortly afterwards, the smallest kind of swallow, the sand-martin, and the stone-curlew, migrate. The Royston or hooded crow (Corvus cornix) arrives from Scotland and the northern parts of England, being driven thence by the severity of the season. The woodcock returns, and is found on our eastern coasts. On the migration of birds, see T.T. for 1823, pp. 303-307, and for 1824, p. 271.

During the months of October, November, and December, at the fall of the leaf, insects become less numerous, but many of the Hemiptera may be found in woods, by beating the ferns and underwood, also many very beautiful Tineæ and Tortricas; and aquatic insects may be taken in ponds, in great numbers. Roots of grass, decayed trees, &c. may again be resorted to.—Samouelle's Introduction to British Ento-

mology, p. 316.

A single specimen of the curiously formed beetle Outhophagus Taurus, was taken in the New Forest, Hampshire, the 1st of this month. The horns upon the head of the male, which certainly very much resemble those of a bull, as exhibited in the coloured figure (Pl. 52), of Curtis's Entomology, and the front view of the head (fig. 7), offer a very strong sexual indication: the female having only two elevated transverse lines upon the head, as exhibited at figure 8, is rendered far less striking. This last figure was drawn from a specimen in the British Museum:

¹ Percival's Poems, 2 vol. 1824. Miller.

it is by no means an uncommon insect upon the continent: I have a male, says Mr. C., from Germany, and it is even found so near to us as Paris; but it does not appear to be an inhabitant of the colder regions, as Gyllenhal, and other writers upon northern insects, do not describe it in their works. Pliny, who was acquainted with our insect, compares it to a tick.

Scotian Botany for October.

MUSCI.

On almost every spot where vegetation can be sustained, the *Mosses* are to be found; and in winter, when other plants are decayed, they enliven with verdure the bleak bosom of nature. They afford protection to the roots and seeds of many delicate vegetables, and, by their spongy texture, they retain a moisture which preserves other plants from the withering drought of summer.

They abound in pastures and woods, and attach themselves to the living, and still more abundantly to the dead trunks and branches of trees. In marshy places they are also abundant, and become the medium of their conversion into fruitful fields. We have examples of this process in peat-mosses; they are there found lively and vigorous on the surface; below this they are more or less in a decomposing state, and still deeper their stems and branches are consolidated into light brown peat. Even the most exposed summits of our highest mountains are painted with them and the hardy lichens. The regions occupied upon our mountains by the mosses are very regular; some of them are peculiar to the most exposed and arid summits of our alpine rocks, where but little moisture is retained, and where no shelter is afforded from the fury of the storm. Such is the case with our four species of Andræa, as also with the Grimmia apocarpa ovata, the Antictan-gium ciliatum, and Pterogonium gracile. Many others are found somewhat lower than these, and the Tortula muralis, Funaria Aggrometrica, &c. abound on our lowest walls. With regard to soil, some, as the Bryum pyriforme and turbinatum, &c. are to be found on sandy places; the Wiessia nuda and others on clayey places. The Sphagnums, Dicranums, &c. abound in bogs; the Hookeria, Hypnums, &c. in moist woods. The Fontinales, Dicrasum pellucidum, &c. are to be found in running waters; while the Splanchnum angustatum and ampullaceum vegetate only on the dung of animals.

All the Musci are furnished with roots, by which they are fixed and nourished; these are always fibrous, and although simple F f 2

when young, soon become branched. In their stems there is much variety; some, as Diphyscium foliosum, Wiessia nuda_ &cc. at first sight appear to be destitute of stem altogether, for in them it is little more than a thin plate interposed between the root and fructification. In many the stem is cylindrical; sometimes it is bulbous, and occasionally angular. In some it is smooth. and in others scaly, from the remains of decayed leaves. general, it is hollow or cellular, and its duration is either annual. blennial, or perennial. They grow most frequently upright, but some are procumbent. The mosses are all furnished with leaves. though some were for a long time considered as destitute of them: as, for example, the Buxbaumia aphilla; they are named Radical. Cauline, or Floral, according to the parts from which they grow. and are either sessile (springing immediately from the stem), amplexicaul (clasping the stem), or decurrent (running down the stem), and their texture is continuous with the substance of the stem. They vary much in shape; some are entire, others have a ciliated or crenated margin, and many are nerved. Their surface is most generally smooth and shining, but in some species it is undulated and rugose.

most by the assistance of a pocket glass, and are found growing either from the sides or apex of the stem or branches. flowers are surrounded by several leaves varying from four to twenty, and are termed Perecheteum; these occupy several rows. and differ from those of the stem both in colour and consistence. Mosses are all either monaceous or diæceous: that part which has been thought analagous to the stamina of phenogamous plants consists of a flat filament which sustains a double membrane containing a mass of pollen; this anther, as it may be called, is of a green colour, and differs in form in different species: when ripe, it emits its pollen with considerable force through an irre-Several pistils generally occur together, though gular opening. most frequently one only becomes fruit-bearing. In both male and female flowers a number of jointed filamentous appendages may be seen, and have been by some supposed to be analagous to the nectaries of other vegetables. Covering the pistil, and connected

with it, there is a veil or calyptra, as it is called, which bursts transversely, and falls off when the fruit is nearly ripe. Their fruit is always contained in a capsule, which is furnished with an operculum or lid at its summit; this lid separates by a horizontal line, and allows the escape of the seeds which are found surrounding a central pillow or columella; after the operculum is fallen, the mouth of the capsule is found to be either naked, or furnished with a single or double fringe. The capsule varies much in shape, being round in Baxbauma, pear-shaped in Funaria:

The flowers of mosses, like those of other plants, consist of the parts concerned in fructification with their envelopes. Though small, they can be readily discovered with the naked eye, or at

Aygrometrica, awl-shaped in Tortula, and quadrangular as in Polytricum. The seeds vary much in size, form, and colour; in general they are so small as to require a very good microscope to distinguish their form: their colour varies from green to a yellowish brown; and their form differs much, being in some species round, in others angular, and not unfrequently echinated.

Besides the advantages already enumerated which this class affords to other vegetables, they are by some animals used as food, particularly by the rein-deer, when there is a deficiency of the Commyce rangiferina. They are employed by birds in the formation of their nests, and these form a comfortable habitation and a sung retreat for rearing their young. To the insect tribe they afford an excellent shelter, and are by many of them used as food. In the highlands, beds are made of them; they also serve well for packing glass or other brittle materials, and, when in the form of peat, they constitute the exclusive fuel of extensive districts. Formerly some of the mosses were used in pharmacy, and were considered as possessing even magical virtues, but for a long time past in this country they have been expunged from the list of medicines.

October is the great month for brewing. Though the advantages of home-brewing, both on the score of health and economy, are so numerous, yet the practice is too generally neglected. The poor man, without assistance, perhaps, cannot afford to brew, from the heavy tax on malt, and the cost of utensils: the rich, who can indulge themselves in wine, and only wish to save trouble, order their beer from the brewer. The poor are served by the pot from brewers' public houses, which should be obliged to pay double duty for what they sell; the rich are supplied, by the cask, from the brewery. Thus, a wholesome beverage, and congenial to the constitution of the natives, if composed of malt and hops, as it ought, is exposed to every species of mercantile adulteration, and in consequence is suspected to be neither friendly to health nor to strength.

October in the North of Italy.

It was now the beginning of the month of October; the summer which had been particularly sultry, had swiftly declined; already the gales which attend upon the equinox swept through the woods and the trees, who know

> His voice, and suddenly grow grey with fear, And tremble, and despoil themselves,

had already begun to obey the command of their Ruler: the delicate chestnut woods, which last dare encounter the blasts of spring, whose tender leaves do not expand until they may become a shelter to the swallow, and which first hear the voice of the tyrant Libeccio, as he comes all-conquering from the west, had already changed their hues, and shone yellow and red, amidst the sea-green foliage of the olives, the darker but light boughs of the cork-trees, and the deep and heavy masses of ilexes and pines.—Valperga.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

Øctober.

The thermometer ranges this month in the shade from 75 in the morning to 84 in the afternoon. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta 6 h. 18 m.; sets 5 h. 42 m.

The rainy season breaks up this month, generally between the 10th and 20th; sometimes, however, it runs up a little higher, but this is seldom the case. The concluding showers are generally very heavy, continuing from 4 to 24 hours incessantly; after which the weather becomes fair, calm, and delightful.

The meat-market begins to revive this month, and the fish-market to increase; the becktee becomes firm, and the other fish proportionably good. Vegetables

and fruits nearly the same as last month.

The kitchen garden is now prepared. On the rains subsiding, vegetation makes rapid progress, and young potatoes are sometimes procurable: pomegranates and cut-bail are now in season.

Winds variable and light, veering round from NW. to N. and NE. The monsoon changes about the 21st of this month; after which, the wind continues pretty steadily between N. and NE. till the end of March.

Pleasant weather.—Fair.

ROUCHBER.

THIS was named, as the preceding months, according to the station which it occupied in the Romulean calendar; it was the 9th. Diana was its tutelar divinity. The sign Sagittarius is appropriated to this month.

Remarkable Bays

In NOVEMBER 1827.

1.—ALL SAINTS.

This festival was instituted in 607, but was then held on the 1st of May. In 835, Gregory IV transposed it to the 1st of November. It served to commemorate all those saints and martyrs to whom no

separate day had been assigned.

There is an extraordinary exhibition on the days of All Saints, and All Souls, in the church and monastery of St Joaô de Deos, at Lisbon. 'Nothing can be more dismal than the city on those days: the bells of all the churches resound with the most lugubrious knells, which seem to diffuse melancholy through every bosom. One of these days, being the anniversary of the awful visitation of 1755, does not in a small measure associate ideas of the most painful nature, bringing to the imagination the dreadful scene of havock and general wreck, which worked the desolution of this great city. In honour of

all our fellow-creatures who have passed before us 'that bourn from whence no traveller returns,' and for the repose of their souls, a day in the year is set apart, which in Portugal is spent in saying and hearing masses. In England we call it All Souls' day; in Portugal 'os defunctos,' or day of the defunct. But by a strange contradiction, whilst praying for their repose, the friars of S. Joaô de Deos disturb the remains of a great number, and, ranging them along the walls of a vault with branches of laurel betwixt them, exhibit their mouldering carcasses as incorruptible saints to the gaze of all the curious. Such a sight is not calculated to render the sensations of the day more cheerful. Among these mortal remains, are seen those of one of the Condes d'Obidos, who has been an inmate of this dreary abode upwards of one hundred and fifty years. His body, which is stuck upright against the wall, is distinguished from the others by his high stature. must certainly have been a very tall man, for when I last saw his remains (observes the author of Sketches of Portuguese Life) in this place, he out-topped his fellow lodgers, although his feet and tibiæ were gone. When the two days are past, these holy, and, as it is pretended, incorruptible relics, are gathered together, and thrown into the charnel-house until the following year.

It does not belong to me to pass sentence upon such a custom; but I leave every one to judge for himself how far an exhibition of the kind is consistent with decency. How the descendants of the Count d'Obidos can suffer the trunk from which they sprung to be thus annually exhumed, to gratify the gaze of grave-hunters and the cupidity of monks, is an enigma only to be accounted for by the supposition, that the latter have persuaded them that he is a saint in heaven, and that they know from himself that he

approves of it.'

2.—ALL SOULS.

This festival was instituted in the ninth century. The business of the day was to pray for souls detained in purgatory.—See pp. 345, 346.

5.-KING WILLIAM LANDED.

For some interesting particulars of this day, see our last volume.

5.—POWDER PLOT.

This day is kept to commemorate the diabolical attempt of the *Papists* to blow up the Parliament House.—See our former volumes, particularly the last, p. 267.

6.—SAINT LEONARD,

A French nobleman of great piety and benevolence, who died in the year 500. He was, literally, the patron of captives.

9.—LORD MAYOR'S DAY.

Until the year 1214, the chief magistrates of London were appointed for life. The title of lord, in addition to that of mayor, was first granted by Richard II to Walworth, who slew Wat Tyler. For a curious metrical account of Lord Mayor's Day, as it was, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, see our last volume, pp. 268-271.

11.—SAINT MARTIN

Was born in Hungary in 316, and was chosen Bishop of Tours in the year 374. He had the reputation of great zeal, piety, and meekness; and died at the age of eighty-four.

13.—saint britius.

He was a native of Tours, educated under St. Martin, and afterwards his successor. He died A.D. 444.

15.—SAINT MACHUTUS.

St. Machutus, or Maclou, was son of Went, a noble Briton. After having been ordained priest, he retired to Aleth, in Brittany, of which place he was made Bishop, the see of which was afterwards trans-

lated to St. Malo, which took its name from our saint. He died A.D. 630, being then 130 years old.—See our last volume.

17.—SAINT HUGH,

Bishop of Lincoln, was born in 1140, in Burgundy. Henry II invited him to England, and in 1186 he was made Bishop of Lincoln. He died in the year 1200.

*19. 1825.—ALEXANDER, EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, DIED, ÆT. 48.

The personal character of the late emperor was chiefly distinguished by great affability and condescension, which was carried to such a degree, as would have been wholly incompatible with his situation, if the government were of any other form than that of an absolute monarchy. Considering the disadvantages of his early life, he must be regarded as one who had, as far as possible, overcome, by natural goodness of temper, those evil habits which circumstances seemed to form for him; and whatever blame may be attached to his caprice, his artfulness, his inflexibility, or his vanity, he nevertheless had great merit; and, indeed, his very faults may be said to have been well suited to the part he was destined to sustain, and to the nation whom he governed. An enemy to the costly vanities of some of his predecessors, he regulated the expenses of his palaces with economy, and applied his treasures to the foundation of useful establishments, the promotion of public works, the equipment of his arsenals, and the augmentation of his army. Temperate, active, and indefatigable, be transacted the business of government through direct correspondence or personal superintendence; and, familiar with the statistics, topography, and interests of the various people inhabiting his extensive empire, he cherished the general prosperity by a polity adapted to the wants of each and all. The solicitude which he manifested for the good of his country, and his humanity, deserve the highest encomiums.

aring the campaign, it cannot be questioned that

Alexander was an example to his whole army. His exemplary endurance of privations, cold, hunger, and fatigue, served to animate his troops. His activity and solicitude were equally the theme of praise, while his affability and conciliatory manners gained him all hearts. The simplicity of manners and mode of life of Alexander were very exemplary and praiseworthy. He slept upon a hard mattrass, whether in the palace or in the camp; he rose early, lived very moderately, was scarcely ever even merry with wine, employed much time in public affairs, and was indefatigable in his labours. His chief amusement, if such it may be called, seemed to have been the organization and discipline of the army.

20.—EDMUND, KING AND MARTYR,

Was the last titular king of East Anglia, and a tributary king to Etheldred. He is said to have been killed by the Danes in 870, because he would not renounce Christianity.

22.—SAINT CECILIA.

She was a native of Rome, and was martyred by being plunged into boiling water (A.D. 230), because she refused to acknowledge the gods of the Pagans.

23.—SAINT CLEMENT.

Our saint was converted by St. Peter, and was a zealous coadjutor of the apostles. He is mentioned in Phil. iv, 3. He was Bishop of Rome, and is generally thought to have suffered martyrdom about the year 100.

23.—o. mart.

Old Martinmas-day, an antient quarter-day.

25.—saint catherine,

Virgin and martyr, is said to have been tortured by wheels turning with great rapidity, having nails, knives, &c. fastened on their rims, A.D. 305.

30.—SAINT ANDREW

Was the younger brother of Simon Peter. He was the first apostle who came to Christ. He is regarded

as the tutelary Saint of Scotland; and the anniversary of the Order of the Thirtle is on his day. The officers of the Royal Society of London are also elected on this day. The Order of the Thirtle is described in T. T. for 1816, p. 283.—See also T. T. for 1820, p. 280, for some poetry on the subject.

DISCOVERY of COAL GAS in 1739.

That coal evolves a permanently elastic and inflammable æriform fluid, seems first to have been experimentally ascertained by the Rev. Dr. CLAYTON, and a brief account of his discovery is published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1739. following is an extract from his paper:—' I got some coal, and distilled it in a retort, in an open fire. first there came over only phlegm, afterwards a black oil, and then likewise a spirit arose, which I could nowavs condense; but it forced my lute, or broke my Once when it had forced my lute, coming close thereto in order to try to repair it, I observed that the spirit which issued out caught fire at the flame of the candle, and continued burning with violence as it came out in a stream, which I blew out and lighted again alternately for several times,' &c. Thus much for the discovery; but the application of this gas for the purpose of illumination is of much more recent date, and the merit is principally due to Mr. Mur-DOCH, whose observations upon the subject are published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1808. He first tried it in Cornwall in 1792, and afterwards in 1798 established an apparatus upon a more extended scale at Boulton and Watt's foundry, at Birmingham; and it was there that the first public display of gas-lights was made in 1802, upon the occasion of the rejoicings for peace.

Astronomical Occurrences

In NOVEMBER 1827.

EVENING.

Sweet star of eve, how lovelily thou dartest Thy brilliant beams betwixt yon purple clouds! How sweetly tranquil is the twilight hour! And though the warblers of the grove are mute, I hear a soft wild voice of harmony, A melancholy and mysterious hymn, Which weeping Nature, o'er departing day, With duleet sadness sings.

PENNIE'S Scenes in Palestine.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Sagittarius at 2 m. after 1 in the morning of the 23d of this month, and he rises and sets during the same period as in the following

TABLE

Of the Sun	's Ri	sing and	Setting	for eve	ery fifth Day.
November	1st, 6th, 11th, 16th, 21st,	Sun rises	12 m. after 20 29 87 44	7. Sets 7 7 7	48 m. after 4 40 4 31 4 23 4 16 4 9 4

Equation of Time.

When it is required to regulate a clock by the Sun, the easiest way is to observe when it is exactly 12 by the dial, and then subtract the quantity corresponding to the respective day from that hour, and the remainder will be what ought to be indicated by the clock at the same moment.

TARLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

	_		 	 m.	ı.
Thursday, November					
Tuesday,					
Sunday,	11th,	 ••••	 	 15 !	51
Friday,					
Wednesday,					
Monday,	26th.	 	 	 19	97

LUNAR PHENOMENA. Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon,	3d day, at	l4 m. after 5	in the afternoon
Last Quarter,	llth	59 8	in the evening
New Moon,			in the morning
First Quarter,	25th	18 . 6	in the evening.

Eclipse of the Moon.

The Moon will be eclipsed on the afternoon of the 3d of this month, and the eclipse will be partly visible in this country. The circumstances under which it will take place are the following:

Beginning of the Eclipse	n.		30 30
Moon's upper limb rises		44	45
Middle of the Eclipse	5	7	45
Ecliptic opposition	5	13	45
End of the Eclipse	6	45	45

Digits eclipsed 10° 35'4 on the Moon's northern limb, or from the southern side of the Earth's shadow.

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The Moon will pass the first meridian at the following times this month, when her transits may be observed, if the atmosphere be not obscured in that direction, viz.

				in the morning

				••••••
16th,	• • • •	31	9	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
				in the afternoon
				••••••
				to the constant
				in the evening
29th,	••••	18	9	
3 0th,	••••	5	lO	

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The following are the times of high water at London Bridge for every fifth day of this month, and those for other times and places may be found as already directed.

TABLE OF TIDES.

			Morning.		Afternoon.
November	lst,	at	11 m. after	0	37 m. after 0
	6th.		46	3	1 4
					96 7
_					0 0
					7 4
					29 8

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Venus still appears like a full Moon, presenting her broad enlightened disk, for

November 1st { Illuminated part = 11.92884 Dark part..... = 0.07116

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

None of the eclipses of either the first or second of these satellites will be visible this month.

Conjunction of the Moon with the Planets and Stars.

Other Phenomena.

Saturn will be stationary on the 2d of this month. Morcury will attain his greatest elongation on the 10th, be stationary on the 20th, and be in his inferior conjunction at 45 m. past 1 in the afternoon of the 30th. Mercury and Venus will also be in conjunction with each other at 9 in the evening of the 24th.

We shall give the following curious local fact a place at the close of the Astronomical Occurrences of this month.

NARROW DALE NOON.

Onecote, near Narrow Dale in Staffordshire, is surrounded by lofty rocks, some of them of so great a height, that, according to Dr. Plot, their tops may frequently be seen in rainy weather above the clouds;

the vale is likewise so extremely narrow, that the inhabitants never see the Sun at all during that quarter of the year that it is nearest the tropic of Capricors; and when it does begin to appear, it is not visible till about one o'clock, which is called by them Narrow Dale Noon, and is used proverbially to express anything done late at noon. The traveller who is fond of enjoying the beauties of diversified and romantic scenery, may, upon these eminences, find the most picturesque views imaginable, finely contrasted by the sublime and awful appearance of the rocks themselves.

The Naturalist's Diary

For NOVEMBER 1827.

Spirit! who dwellest in the secret clouds, Unseen, unknown, yet heard o'er all the world! Who reign'st in storms and darkness half the year. Yet sometimes lov'st, in Summer's season bright, To breathe soft music through her azure dome; Oft heard art thou amongst the high tree-tops, In mournful and so sweet a melody, As though some Angel, touched with human grief, Soothed the sad mind. Oh, viewless, viewless wind! I love thy potent voice, whether in storms It gives to thunder-clouds their impulse dread, Swells the Spring airs, or sighs in Autumn's groves, Mourning the dying leaf. Whate'er the note, Thy power entrances, wins me from low cares, And bears me towards Gop, who bids you breathe, And bids the morning of a higher world Dawn on my hopes. MRS. RADCLIFFE.

THE winds and the storms of November naturally lead us to reflect upon the incalculable uses attendant upon those tempestuous eddies which visit, at certain intervals, the atmosphere we inhale. That refulgent orb, the prodigious source of life to unnumbered myriads of creatures,—the mighty image of an all-creative and all-vivifying power,—is ordained to operate in a twofold manner upon our globe and its atmasshere. While its light irradiates and its heat en-

genders vitality, it is also employed in regulating the winds; and to its sole instrumentality naturalists have asseribed the periodical recurrence of excessive storms when the Sun (to us) enters certain constellations of the zediac. Particular tracks in our atmosphere experience an excessive rarification from the Sun's continued action;—these rarefactions immediately produce currents, which rush through the fields of ether in various directions, and with different degrees of impetuosity, in proportion to the force with which the rarefying or compressing power acts.

Hence the acceleration of certain portions of the aerial fluid, which, whether in its effect it refresh and invigorate our bodies in the summer's breeze, or tear up the oak of the forest with its impetuous gusts, is only so many modified effects resulting from the same

cause.

This fluid, which we call atmosphere, not only subserves the purposes of our existence in innumerable ways, but is ordained to form the basis of high and varied enjoyments in our intellectual life. Its chemical uses in sustaining vitality in the animal and vegetable kingdom, and its share in the decomposition and re-composition, and mutual action on each other. of all material bodies, have ever formed a source of interesting study, since intelligent mankind have learned to investigate the treasures of that ample cabinet upon which they vegetate. But the phenomena with which it stands connected with the science of optics, and through which it has relation to our moral and intellectual nature, form a topic of disquisition not always, perhaps, duly appreciated. Atmosphere, in its various forms of tenuity, is supposed to extend around our planet about thirty or forty miles more or less from its surface; and the other planets of our system have been found from experiments to possess. several of them at least, this phenomenon in the economy of wisdom for preserving life and heightening enjoyment.

. We see that vitality in animals and vegetables is

presently extinct when deprived of the sustaining and vivifying principle of air;—it is no less certain that sounds, in all their innumerable modifications, must be also extinct, if a perfect vacuum prevailed on the surface of our globe. The theory of intelligible language which, perhaps, imparts to life its highest pleasures, could not, under our present economy, exist but through the instrumentality of the fluid in which we move and breathe. The tympanum of the ear (no longer agitated by the concussions impressed upon the floating particles of air, and which, by re-conveying certain infinitesimal vibrations to the brain, produces the sensation of hearing) would, as an organ of sense, for ever remain useless; while in another important sense, by which we inhale a thousand odoriferous scents, wasted upon the summer's breeze, we should be equally destitute of impressions, as, without the assistance of the fluid called atmosphere to serve as the medium of conveying the impression, it is impossible we should ever receive it. Absolute nihility can form the basis of conveyance to no impression.

But in another of the faculties of sensation, one of the noblest and most useful, which stands most intimately connected with the intellectual faculties,--that of vision, the effect would be as signally striking. The sublimest phenomena, perhaps, connected with our atmosphere, is the universal diffusion of light. and the equalized and soft radiance which pervades every space throughout our globe, not excluded from the Sun's light. These effects are very well known to naturalists, but are apt to be overlooked by common Were it not, however, for this rare and subtle fluid which encompasses and rises to a considerable height above us, light, as emanating from the resplendent luminary which forms the centre of our system, as it could never answer the purposes of vegetable life, so would it form an incomparably less cheerful and perfect medium of invigoration to the myriads of creatures which move on the surface of our planet. All would be contrast in the expanse

above us. The mild diffusion of his splendour, the rediant glories with which the beams of the Sun are reflected to human optics, would no longer exist; a continued blaze of ineffable effulgence would mark his path in the ecliptic, while through all surrounding space, at a trifling distance, would reign the blackness of universal midnight. Doleful shades would, to the appearance of every spectator dwelling upon the earth, environ the greater part of mankind, engendering gloomy horror on each side of us, which, to each individual, as it affected all around him, would sit enthroned in grim desolation over the habitations of men.

In the language of a somewhat fanciful writer, the Sun would appear like a fire in the night, glaring and fierce, strongly contrasted upon a back ground of intense black, overpowering indeed the stars close to him, and those only; no others would "hide their diminished heads," but ever accompany him in his daily course; such would be the appearance of the heavens! On earth we should be constantly overwhelmed with that diminutive portion of the earth immediately adjacent to us, while on either hand reigned obscurity and night. The infinite variety of compounded tints would immediately vanish, and in its stead be substituted light insupportably brilliant, contrasted with darkness, the shadow of death."

The crepuscule which, in many of the latitudes of our earth, particularly in the temperate zones, stands connected, not only with our comfort, but in a variety of ways with the expansion of our faculties, has been long ascertained to be wholly dependent upon the atmosphere. Did we exist in vacuo, nothing of the kind could, upon any principle of physiology, recreate our senses. The moment the Sun descended beneath the plane of our horizon, would prove the commencement of a period of deepest shades,—almost immediate darkness would wrap her gloomy mantle over terres-

^{&#}x27; See Keith, and other astronomical authorities.



trial objects,—a contrast which, besides the injury accruing to our optics, as at present constituted, would, in many moral points of view, deprive us of incalculable advantages. If immediate and total darkness, in the midst of summer, spread her veil around us, as the Sun left our hemisphere, except when irradiated from the borrowed splendour of the Moon, or the faint twinkling of the stellar fires, the interesting spectacle which, at certain periods of the year in the temperate regions of our globe, offers to the mind of man so fine a medium for the exercise of his powers, would be at once withdrawn. The invigorating and balmy coolness which refreshes the student in his walk, after the resplendent orb of day has withdrawn his beams, together with the delightful contemplations which it is wont to open in the soul attuned to beauty. would be extinct in the catalogue of human enjoyments, and the soft whisperings of poetic imagery would often lose their most kindred and delightful season of inspiration.

Atmosphere is ordained to fulfil other purposes connected with physiology;—blessings incalculable, and not so immediately obvious to the generality of observers, much less to the 'mute unconscious gaze' of vulgar mankind, follow in the train of this admirable provision in the economy of Nature. Subservient to high moral ends, in the varied order of life and happiness, the sublime phenomena in meteorology prove that, without the medium which is hence presented for those vapours which float aloft, destined to irrigate the surface of our globe, wisdom ineffable could scarcely have contrived a more perfect system for supplying our physical exigencies.—See more on this subject in the Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xcv, part 2, pp. 108-111.

The WIND.

The Wind has a language I would I could learn; Sometimes 'tis soothing, and sometimes 'tis stern, Sometimes it comes like a low, sweet song, And all things grow calm as the sound floats along, And the forest is lulled by the dreamy strain. And slumber sinks down on the wandering main. And its crystal arms are folded in rest. And the tall ship sleeps on its heaving breast. Sometimes, when Autumn grows yellow and sear, And the sad clouds weep for the dying year, It comes like a wizzard, and mutters its spell. -I would that the magical tones I might tell-And it beckons the leaves with its viewless hand. And they leap from the branches at its command. And follow its footsteps with wheeling feet, Like fairies that dance in the moonlight sweet. Sometimes it comes in the wintry night. And I hear the flap of its pinions of might; And I see the flash of its withering eye, As it looks from the thunder-cloud sailing on high, And pauses to gather its fearful breath, And lifts up its voice like the angel of death.— And the billows leap up when the summons they hear. And the ship flies away as if winged with fear; And the uncouth creatures that dwell in the deep Start up at the sound from their floating sleep, And career through the waters, like clouds through the night, To share in the tumult their joy and delight. And when the Moon rises the ship is no more, Its joys and its sorrows are vanished and o'er; And the fierce storm that slew it has faded away. Like the dark dream that flies from the light of the day! New Monthly Magazine.

The Diary of the appearances of Nature in this month is, like the intervals of fine weather in November, brief indeed, and may be told in a few lines. The Virginia-creeper has now a very rich and beautiful appearance. Mushrooms are collected in abundance this month: see T. T. for 1825, p. 201. The congregating of small birds, which was noticed as commencing in October, still continues; and the longtailed titmouse is seen in troops in the tall hedge-rows. The stock-dove, one of the latest winter birds of passage, arrives from more northern regions towards the end of this month. Whatever may be the case, says the Rev. Mr. Jenyns, with respect to these birds in the southern counties, with us (at Bottisham) they certainly remain the whole year, as I have noticed them at all seasons and repeatedly found their nests. They are

considerably less plentiful than the ring-dove. but have much the habits of that species, with which they frequently associate in hard weather: like them, they breed very early in the spring. The nest, which is flat and shallow, consists merely of a few sticks put loosely together in the hollow of some old tree. The eggs are two in number, white, like those of the ringdove, but somewhat smaller, and rather more rounded. As far as I have observed, the stock-dove never coos. but utters only a hollow rumbling note during the breeding season, which may be heard to a considera-Montagu, in his Ornithological Dicble distance. tionary, has evidently confounded this species with the rock-dove (Columba livia, Temm.), which is supposed to be the origin of our dove-house pigeon, and is found in a wild state upon some of the steep shores and cliffs of Great Britain, but is not a native of Cambridgeshire. The stock-dove and ring-dove are indiscriminately called wood-pigeons by the country people.—Ornithology of Cambridgeshire.

The Licinus depressus of Paykul, an insect new to this country, was first discovered in Norfolk, under a stone, on the 5th of this month; it is figured in Plate 75 of Mr. Curtis's British Entomology: a species of the same rare genus (L. silphöides, Fab.) has once been taken in August, upon the Castle-hill at

Dover.

A new species of Parnus (impressus), with its curious auriculate antennæ, is figured at Plate 80. The Parni inhabit the roots and blades of grass at the sides of ponds and ditches; they are also to be found amongst the rejectamenta left upon marshes and meadows after a flood, during the winter and spring. By the force of their maxillæ it is supposed that they eat animal substances, and that the down which covers them prevents the water from penetrating their bodies.

We shall conclude our Entomological Notices by referring to Plate 114, where a figure of the mole's flea (Pulex talpæ) is represented with curious and elaborate dissections of the mouth; and although it would

require an experienced eye and hand to follow the author in such investigations (not necessary except for scientific purposes), still, by the help of a microscope, we may be enabled to examine these little creatures (which may be procured all the year), when an organization will be unfolded to the inquirer, which is as perfect as it is astonishing.

To 4 LEAFLESS HAWTHORN.

. . . .

Hail, rustic Tree! for, though November's wind
Has thrown thy verdant mantle to the ground,
Yet Nature, to thy vocal inmates kind,
With berries red thy matron-boughs has crowned.
Thee do I envy: for bright April showers
Will bid again thy fresh green leaves expand;
And May, light floating in a cloud of flowers,
Will cause thee to re-bloom with magic hand.
But, on my Spring, when genial dew-drops fell,
Soon did Life's north-wind curdle them with frost;
And, when my Summer-blossom oped its bell,

In blight and mildew was its beauty lost!
Yet, though to me no Sunshine here is given,
A day of brightness may be mine in Heaven.

R. MILLHOUSE.

Scotian Botany for Mobember.

THE FUNGI.

There are many persons who turn from the contemplation of the Fungi'with abhorrence and disgust, on account of their mode of growth, which, in many instances, is in the most retired and sequestered situations, and not unfrequently in the midst of putrefaction and corruption. But the unprejudiced observer of Nature, aware of their importance in the scale of vegetation, examines them with minute attention, and only regrets that their term of duration is not prolonged, and with reluctance leaves them to decay.

From their sequestered habitations, their short duration, and the mutability of their form and substance, much difficulty has secreted in their investigation. Though simple in their organization, they are no less accurately defined, nor less beautiful and interesting than other more complicated vegetables. It was the opinion of some fathers in Botany, that the Fungi were composed of the sap of decomposing wood, transmuted into a new state of existence; but, after much careful and accurate observation, later botanists have demonstrated their vegetable nature.

and described and delineated both their parts of fructifications and their seeds. In general, their substance is soft and spongy; but in some species it acquires a leathery, or even a woody texture. They are all of very rapid growth, the space of time between their germination and maturity being, in many cases, only a few days, and, in some instances, only a few hours. They differ from other plants, inasmuch as the absence of light does not seem prejudicial to their growth; for many species live and come to maturity under the earth, or grow luxuriantly in the dark recesses of caves and cellars. Many remarkable differences obtain in regard to the situations on which they vegetate: numbers grow upon the ground, and seem to derive their nourishment entirely from the soil; others spring up on various putrid substances; for decomposing meat, fruit, and the dung of animals are all destined to support their particular species.

The fungi do not confine themselves entirely to vegetables in a state of decomposition, but are often found attached to, and preying on the juices of living plants; but upon animal matter they never make their appearance till the vital spark has fled. The seasons in which they are to be found in greatest abundance is towards the end of autumn and beginning of winter; but many of the parasitical species are always to be met with, and observe their time of growth with as much regularity as other

vegetables.

There are amongst them some that exhibit the finest colours of the vegetable kingdom; and many in symmetry of form rival the more gaudy of Flora's productions. They spring up, flourish, and decay, after transmitting their principle of vitality to a new race exactly similar to themselves, by means of seeds, which differ greatly in size, shape, and colour, as well as in their situation, insertion, and number. Some of them may be recognized by the naked eye, while others require the aid of the most powerful magnifiers to render them perceptible. Many of the fungi are inodorous, others diffuse a cadaverous smell, which renders them exceedingly offensive, in others it is tolerably agreeable; the Agaricus pratensis, for example, smells like almond kernels, the A. fragrans like new-mown hay; on the other hand, the A. murinus has an odour resembling that of mice, and the Phallus impudicus that of putrid meat.

The taste of the fungi is as various as their smell: many are vapid and tasteless, and others, though not unpleasant at first, leave a disagreeable burning sensation in the throat, as is the case with the lactescent agaries. Many species are used by man as food; such are the mushrooms, a short description of some of which is deferred till next month; others, however, are baneful when eaten, both to man and animals. Some constitute our most formidable enemies by attacking our houses and fields, which they destroy and blight. That most destructive evil the dry-rot is, by

many, supposed to be occasioned by a parasitical fungus, the Marilius lackrymans. That this plant attends the disease is certain, but whether its vegetation is the cause or effect of the dryrot, is at least problematical. In September last, the floor-joists of the Court Hall in the new county buildings of Paisley were found to be completely destroyed by this disease. In this case, though the joists were of the best red pine, in the short period of four years they were reduceable to powder by the slightest pressure of the finger, and were penetrated to the centre with this fungus, which also covered with a thick coat all the dwarf walls and inclosed rubbish. The cause was soon discovered by finding the air drains through the dwarf walls choaked up with rubbish. The other joists, being exposed to the free circulation of air, remain quite fresh, and show not the least tendency to decay.

In summer and autumn, there are few plants that are not more or less infected by parasites belonging to this genus. On many species of gramma, particularly on corn, the blight or mildew is found caused by the *Puccinia gramminis*: it attacks the leaves and stem, forming linear patches, at first of a yellowish brown, and afterwards of a black colour. The *Uredo caries*, and segetum, or smut, prey on the grain of wheat, corn, &c. and reduce them into a black soot-like powder. The leaves of the common bramble, tuasilago, gooseberry, &c. are all subject to their attacks; and, in some seasons, they are productive of much mischief in eur fields, and baffle the husbandman in all his attempts to prevent them.

Finally, the Boletus fomentarius was long much used in surgery as a styptic, when applied to bleeding surfaces; but in the present state of that art, recourse is had to much more certain and efficacious means, and it is now used only as tinder, and known by the name of Anadow: to prepare it for this use, it is stripped of its epidermis, beaten into a soft, spongy mass, and soaked in a solution of nite or suppowder.

solution of nitre or gunpowder.

In this month, many of our countrymen are bending their steps towards the 'eternal city,' full of high hope and expectation of the pleasures to be derived from passing the winter in this magnificient capital. Not a few Englishmen, however, we fear, do little more, than

Set out for Rome, Take a week's view of Venice and the Brent, Stare round, see nothing, and come home content.

To all who are affected with the mania for foreign travel, pretending to undervalue the advantages of their own happy country (merely because they are profoundly ignorant of them), we would recommend the following 'Song,' by the Rev. Wm. Shepherd:

Tune—'When daylight was yet sleeping under the billow.'

I have traversed the deserts of *Egypt* so dreary,
Where the eye-blighting *mirage* extends like the dew,
And my heart, as I wandered, forlorn, sad, and weary.

And my heart, as I wandered, forlorn, sad, and weary, Has leapt when the pyramids burst on my view.

But still faster it throbbed, and my pulse beat the higher, When in speechless sensation I paused on the ground Where Menou was compelled from the fight to retire,

And the brave Abercrombie received his death-wound.

I have seen the proud turrets of lofty Granada,
And crossed the wide plains of the barren Castille;

I have played to my fair one the sweet serenada, And danced a fandango in wealthy Seville.

And danced a fandango in wealthy Seville. Like thy pilgrim, St. Jago, in ardent devotion,

I have climbed the rude mountains, so high and so hoar; And, kneeling, all raptured, in sacred emotion,

Due laurels I've twined on the tomb-stone of Moore.

In the splendid saloans and the circles of Paris,

Where wit, brightly sparkling, and gaiety smile, I have joined the light throng where ensur never tarries,

And the Loves and the Graces the moments beguile.

I have roamed, sprightly France! through thy vine-covered mountains.

And thy vales, ever moist with fructiferous dews;
But true pleasure I found at the moss-bordered fountains,
Where victory smiled on our arms at Toulouse.

Through thy fertile champaigns, antient Belgium, I've travelled, And admired thy neat hamlets and flourishing towns;

Thy intricate course, sluggish Scheldt! I've unravelled,
And marked where the war-horse has trampled thy downs.

But which was the spot, where, my step longest dwelling, My eyes were in transport infixed in the view?

Twas the spot where, in fancy, my rapt bosom swelling, I saw Wellington triumph at famed Waterloo.

Oh, my loved native country! wherever he wanders,
Where the icebergs portentous in majesty roam,
Or where through tall palm-groves the Ganges meanders,
The way-faring Briton is proud of his home.

And, while fond recollections to joys long-lost bind him, Though alive to each climate's indigenous charms,

He still dwells with delight on the scenes that remind him Of the triumphs of Britain in arts and in arms. ÉPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCE, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

Bobember.

Delightful weather; wind northerly; days and nights cool and clear.

The thermometer ranges from 64 in the morning to 75 in the afternoon. On the 20th day, sun rises at

Calcutta 6 h. 36 m.; sets 5 h. 24 m.

The meat market looks wholesome, the meat becomes firm and good. Abundance of fish, and in excellent condition. The vegetable market undergoes a total renovation this month, by the introduction of green peas, new potatoes, and various other young vegetables. Game, also, comes to market this month, in considerable quantities: viz. hares, snipes, wild ducks, and teal. In the fruit market may be had oranges, limes, lemons, pumplenoses, papia, pine, custard-apples, plaintains, and cocoa-nuts, &c.

Fine weather.—Wholesome weather.—Mornings

rather foggy.

DECEMBER.

THIS month was named, like the preceding ones, from the place which it had in the Romulean calendar. Its tutelar divinity was Ceres. Capricornus is the sign given to this month.

Remarkable Days

In DECEMBER 1827.

2.—ADVENT SUNDAY.

This and the three following Sundays precede the grand festival of Christmas, and take their name from the Latin advenire, to come into, or from adventus, an approach.

6.—SAINT NICHOLAS.

Nicholas was Bishop of Myra, in Lycia, and died

about the year 392. The ceremony of the boy-hishon. once observed on this day, and from which the Etos Montem is supposed to have been derived, is described at length in T. T. for 1814, p. 306 (second edition).—A singular instance of superstition is recorded to have taken place in Devonshire:—A short time since a little boy fell into the Tamar, a few miles from Devonport, and was drowned. The watermen being unable to find the body, the mother was advised to stick a candle in a wooden bowl, and set it affoat, with a recommendatory prayer to St. Nicholas, and that the bowl would then stop over the corpse. This nonsensical experiment she put in practice; but the current drifted the candle against a boat-load of hay, which took fire, and the flames communicated to her house on the bank of the river, consuming it to ashes. St. Nicholas, the patron of mariners, has been said to do wonders on board of ships; but it would seem he does not condescend to protect barges and lighters, much less to steer a bowl upon a river. How far his credit may have suffered by this negligence, we are not informed; but we think he ought not again to be trusted with a lighted candle.—Exeter Gazette.

8.—CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

This festival was instituted by Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, because William the Conqueror's fleet, being in a storm, afterwards came safe to shore.

13.—SAINT LUCY.

Lucy, a virgin martyr, was a native of Syracuse, who suffered in the year 305.

16.—o sapientia.

This is the commencement of an anthem, which, in the Romish church, used to be sung from this day until Christmas-eve: O sapientia, quæ ex ore altissimi prodisti, &c.

19, 21, 22.—EMBER DAYS. See p. 62.

21.—SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE.

St. Thomas is said to have preached the Gospel in

Media and Persia, and, about 73, to have been pierced through with a dart. This day was assigned to him in 1180. This is the shortest day, and is, at London, 7 h. 44 m. 17 s.; allowing 9 m. 5s. for refraction.

TIME: By Mr. Bowring.

On! on! our moments hurry by,
Like shadows of a passing cloud,
Till general darkness wraps the sky,
And man sleeps senseless in his shroud.

He sports, he trifles time away,
'Till time is his to waste no more:
Heedless he hears the surges play;
And then is dashed upon the shore.

He has no thought of coming days,
Though they alone deserve his thought:
And so the heedless wanderer strays,
And treasures nought and gathers nought.

Though wisdom speak—his ear is dull;
Though virtue smile—he sees her not;
His cup of vanity is full,
And all besides forgone—forgot.

Oh! let me breathe my heart's warm flame Aneath you auld tree's aged frame, Whare Friendship past may justly claim A silent tear,

To trace ilk rudely-sculptured name O' comrades dear.

How scattered now!—ah, wae is me! They steer their course on life's dark sea; Some scad awa wi lightsome glee

An' easy sail;

Some oft the rudest shock maun dree
O' Ruin's gale.

O life! in thy wee fond career,
What shifting lights an' shades appear!
Now Hore's bright beam will trinkle clear,
An' promise fair;
Now lours the gloom, sae dark an' drear

Now lours the gloom, sae dark an drear O' deep despair!

HOPE: By Mr. RICHARD RYAN.

O for that sunny hour again

When Fortune's smile was mine,

And wealth brought in her dazzling train

Each gift and form divine:

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A wreath then hung for every guest
My mirthful halls around,
And each young brow, that smiles had dressed,
Was with a garland crowned.
Fair Beauty's smile, and Frolic's song,
And Whim and Wit there flew;
Light Pleasure lit their steps along,
And Love! sweet Love! came too.
But one remains of all the forms
That round my sunshine flew,
With whom I brave the world's wild storms,
And chills and changes too.

And chills and changes too.

My blissful moments 'neath her smile
A brighter ray would wear;
And now she seeks, with some new wile,
To gild my dark despair.

Ne'er from my breast will she depart, Tho' Friendship, Love, elope! She's mine while life dwells in my heart, And mortals call her HOPE!

*23. 1825.—samuel parkes died.

In 1806 he published his highly interesting and valuable 'Chemical Catechism.' A second edition was soon called for, which contained so many additional facts as to be almost a new work. Many editions have since appeared. In 1808 he published 'An Essay on the Utility of Chemistry to the Arts and Manufactures.' In the following year he produced his 'Rudiments of Chemistry, illustrated by Experiments, 18mo. The publication of this work was occasioned by the fact that a well-known bookseller made so free with the Chemical Catechism, as to transcribe it without any modesty, under the title of a Grammar of Chemistry. An injunction in chancery, however, corrected the piracy, after which the injured author, for the protection of his property, published an abridgment of his own book. In 1815 he produced 'Chemical Essays, principally relating to the Arts and Manufactures of the British Dominions,' 8 vols., 8vo.

25.—CHRISTMAS DAY.

The English were always remarkable for the festivi-

ties with which they distinguished Christmas. When the devotions of the evening preceding it were over, and night had come on, it was customary to light candles of large size, and to lay upon the fire a huge log. called a Yule clog, or Christmas block, a custom not yet extinct in some parts of England, especially in the north, where coal is frequently substituted for wood. Chandlers at this season used to present Christmas candles to their customers; and bakers, for the same purpose, made images of paste, called Yule dough, or Yule cakes, which probably represent the Bambins. At court, among many bodies, and in distinguished families, an officer, under various titles, was appointed to preside over the revels. Leland, speaking of the court of Henry VII, A.D. 1489, mentions an Abbot of Misrule, who was created for this purpose, who made much sport, and did right well his office. Stow describes the same officer as Lord of Misrule' and Master of Merry Disports, who belonged not only to the king's house, but to that of every nobleman of honour or good worship, were he spiritual or temporal. The mayor and sheriffs of London each had their Lord of Misrule, and strove, without quarrel or dispute, which should make the rarest pastime. His sway began on Allhallow eve, and continued till the morrow after Candlemas-day. This period was filled up by 'fine and subtle disguisings, masks, and mummeries, with playing at cards for counters, nayles, and points, more for pastime than gaine. Holinshed mentions a gentleman named George Ferrars, 'a lawyer, a poet, and an historian, who supplied the office well in the fifth year of Edward VI., and who was rewarded by the young king with princely liberality.' That

^{*}Purchas, in his Pilgrimage, as quoted in the Aubrey MS., says, that the custom of having 'Lords of Misrule' for twelve days at Christmas, is derived from the 'Feast in Babylon, kept in bonour of the Goddesse Dorcetha, for five dayes together; during which time, the masters were under the dominion of their servants, one of which was usually sett over the rest, and royally cloathed, and was called Sogum, that is, great Prince.'

sort of sport, however, over which this mock monarch presided, was not, for the most part, of a very refined nature, and probably partook somewhat closely of the libertas Decembri, to which Polydore Virgil has traced it. The following are some of the pastimes:—gaming, music, jugglers, and jack-puddings; scrambling for nuts and apples, dancing, the hobby-horse, hunting owls and squirrels, the fool plough, hot cockles, a stick moving on a pivot with an apple at one end and a candle at the other, so that he who missed his bite burnt his nose, blind-man's-buff, forfeits, interludes, and mock plays.

The Puritans regarded these diversions, which appear to have offended more against good taste than morality, with a holy horror; and Stubbs, in his Anatomie of Abuses, has poured whole vials of fanatical wrath upon their supporters in the country villages. The Lord of Misrule is bespattered with much foul speech: he is 'a grand captain of mischiefe,' whose 'bandie pipers strike up the devil's dance, and sing like devils incarnate;' his followers are 'terrestrial furies,' bedecked with papers of 'babelerie,' hell-hounds' given to 'heathenish devilrie,' and all who admire them are no better than 'fantastical fools.'

The Inns of Court were much distinguished for their lavish expenditure on these celebrations, and their Lord of Misrule was sometimes termed the Christmas Prince, or King of Christmas. A record of some of these revelries may be found in Dugdale's Origines Judiciales, p. 150, where a grand Christmas kept at the Inner Temple, 1562, the 4th of Elizabeth, is curiously described. At this feast, Dudley, afterwards Earl of Leicester, presided. The general form of the grand Christmasses, as extracted from the accompts of the house, and given also by Dugdale, exhibits some curious particulars. On Christmas-eve was a banquet in the hall, at which three masters of the revels were present. The most

antient of these, after dinner and supper, was to sing a carol, and to command other gentlemen to sing with him. On each of the twelve nights, before and after supper, were revels and dancing; and the breakfasts on the following mornings were sufficiently substantial. They consisted of brawn, mustard, and malmsev. The courses were all served with music. but the day of Nativity itself was undistinguished by any solemnity above the others. On St. Stephen's day, after the first course, the Constable Marshal came into the hall armed cap-a-pie, and after three curtesies, knelt down before the Lord Chancellor. and in an oration of a quarter of an hour's length. tendered his service. Then entered, for the same purpose, the Master of the Game and the Ranger of the Forest, blowing on horns three blasts for venery. After these was an entry which singularly marks the rudeness of the times. 'A huntsman cometh into the hall with a fox, and a purse net with a cat. both bound at the end of a staff, and with them nine or ten couple of hounds, with the blowing of hunting horns. And the fox and the cat are set upon by the hounds, and killed beneath the fire.' The Common Serjeant then delivered 'a plausible speech' on the necessity of the Christmas officers, in which he was followed by the King's Serjeant-at-law, till the Lord Chancellor desired a respite of farther advice. Supper ended, the Constable-Marshal summoned his court to dance. The style and title of all his nobles are little fitted to the refinement of modern ears; but we may subjoin a few as specimens of that which passed for wit with no less men than Coke and Crewe. We read of 'Sir Francis Flatterer, of Fowlehurst, in the county of Buckingham; Sir Randle Rackabite, of Rascal Hall, in the county of Rakele; and of Sir Morgan Mumchance, of Much Monkery, in the county of Mad Mopery.' For these sports on New Year's night, on which a play and mask were enacted, the hall was furnished with scaffolds for the ladies.

Lincoln's Inn was somewhat jealous of this splendour in its rival. In one of the registers of that society is the following order, made November 27, 22 Henry VIII: 'Yt is agreed, that if the two Temples de kepe Chrystemas, then Chrystemas to be kept here: and to know this. the Steward of the House ys commanded to get knowledge, and to advertise my master by the next day at night.' Of the license which was allowed, some judgment may be formed from an order made in Gray's Inn, still later (26th November, 28 Elizabeth). By this, any gentleman of the house who, at Christmas time, should break open any chambers. or disorderly abuse or molest any fellow or officer within the precincts of the house, was to be expelled for his attack, if it were a fellow; and put out of commons, if it were an officer. This last society, Gray's Inn, was by no means behind its brethren: and the fullest account given of any revels will be found in the two parts of Gesta Grayorum, printed in the second volume of Nichols's Progresses of Queen Elizabeth. In 1594, Mr. Henry Holmes was installed Monarch of the season by the following titles: Prince of Purpoole, Arch-Duke of Stapulea and Bernardia, Duke of High and Nether Holborn, Marquis of St. Giles and Tottenham, Count Palatine of Bloomsbury and Clerkenwell, Great Lord of the Canon of Islington, Kentish-town, Paddington, and Knightsbridge. Knight of the most Heroical Order of the Helmet. and Sovereign of the Soil. Mr. Holmes was a Norfolk gentleman, who was 'thought to be accomplished with all good parts, fit for so great a dignity, and was also a very proper man in personage, and very active in dancing and revelling.

THE ABBOT OF UNREASON,
Or Lord of Misrule in Scotland. Under James V, of Scotland,
the sons of noblemen often assumed the lead in the revels of
this abbot; and it is said the king did not disdain to personate
the gamesome abbot, who was always selected according to the
advantages of command, stature, inventive fancy, frolic, and entemprise; but his real quality was a secret confided only to his

The guisars, as they are named, who go at Christmas guard. from house to house, in all the towns of Scotland, are supposed to be a slight remnant of the custom of the abbot. The bedy-guards of the Abbot of Unreason were all arrayed in gaudy colours, bedecked with gold or silver lace, with embroidery and silken soarves, the fringed ends of which floated in the wind. They wore chains of gold, or baser metal gilt, and glittering with mock jew-Their legs were adorned and rendered voluble by links of shining metal, hung with many bells of the same material, twining from the ancle of their buskins to their silken garters; and each flourished in his hand a rich silk handkerchief, brocaded over with flowers. This was the garb of fifty or more youths, who encircled the person of the leader. They were surrounded by ranks, six or more in depth, consisting of tall, brawny, fiercevisaged men, covered with crimson or purple velvet bonnets, and nodding plumes of the eagle and the hawk, or branches of pine, yew, oak, fern, box-wood, or flowering heath. Their jerkins were always of a hue that might attract the eye of ladies in the bower, or serving-damsels at the washing-green: they had breeches of immense capacity, so padded or stuffed as to make each man occupy the space of five, in their natural proportions; and in this seeming soft raiment they concealed weapons of defence or offence. with which to arm themselves and the body-guard, if occasion called for resistance. To appearance they had no object but careless sport and glee, some playing on the Scottish harp, others blowing the bag-pipes, or beating targets for drums, or gingling Whenever the procession halted they danced, flourishing bells. about the banners of their leader. The exterior bands, perhaps, represented, in dumb show or pantomime, the actions of warriors or the wildest buffoonery; and those were followed by crowds who, with all the grimaces and phrases of waggery, solicited money or garniture from the nobles and gentry that came to gaze upon Wherever they appeared multitudes joined them; some for the sake of jollity, and not a few to have their fate predicted by spac-wives, warlocks, and interpreters of dreams, who invariably were found in the train of the Abbot of Unreason.

The procession went about at all times, particularly in May, and in fine weather. The irregularities and outrages, however, perpetrated under this disguise became so flagrant, that by an act of the Scottish Parliament, during the reign of Queen Mary, in 1555, the Abbot of Unreason and his sports incurred a heavy

censure and rigid prohibition.

Mrs. Radcliffe, in her Metrical Romance of 'St. Alban's Abbey' (Posthumous Works, vol. iii, p. 112), gives a pleasing description of a Christmas festival, as held in the 'Abbot's Banquet Hall.'

And when came up, at old Yule-tide,
The boar's head, trimmed with garlands gay,
With shining holly's scarlet pride,

And the sweet-scented rosemary, O! then what merry carols rung, What choral lays the minstrels sung! Marching before it through the hall, Led by the stately Seneschal. This was the joyous minstrel's call, In Leonine with English strung:

' Caput Apri defero.

Then every voice in chorus joined Of those who sat in festal row:

The boar's head in hand bring I With garlands gay and rosemary; I pray you all sing merrily, Qui estis in convivio.

You might have heard it on the wind-Heard it o'er hills of desert snow. Thence might be seen, in vale below, Through windows of that banquet-hall, The mighty Yule-Clough blazing clear, And the Yule-Tapers, huge and tall, Lighting the roofs with timely cheer. But, ere a few brief hours were sped, The blaze was gone—the guests were fled. And heavy was the winter's sigh, As those lone walls it passed by. Now ere the Abbot's feast began, Or yet appeared the crane and swan, The solemn Carver, with his keen Knife, and well armed with napkins clean, Scarf-wise athwart his shoulder placed, And on each arm and round his waist, Came, led by Marshal, to the dais. There every trencher he assays, O'er the GREAT SALT makes flourishes. Touches each spoon and napkin fair, Assaying whether ill lurk there, Ere he present it to his lord, Or offer it at the REWARDE. . The Sewer, half-kneeling on his way, Of every dish receives assaye At the high board, as guard from guile, The Marshal waiting by the while,

And antient carols rising slow
From the young Choir and Monks below:
And thus, as every course came on,
These pomps an awful reverence won.

Soon as the last high course was o'er. The Chaplain from the cupboard bore, With viands from the tables stored. The Alms-Dish to the Abbot's board. And ample-loaf, and gave it thence, With due form and good countenance, That th' Almoner might it dispense. Next came the Cup-bearers, with wine, Malmsey and golden metheglin, With spice-cake and with wafers fine. This o'er, when surnaps all were drawn, And solemn grace again was sung. Came golden ewer and bason, borne In state to the high board along. But at high tide, ere all was past, Marched the huge Wassail-bowl the last, Obedient to the Abbot's call, Borne by the steward of the hall; The Marshal with his wand before And streamers gay and rosemary, And choral carols sounding o'er. Twas set beside the father's dais. Where oft the deacon, in his place, Who bearer of the grace-cup was, Filled high the cordial Hippocras From out that bowl of spicery, And served the Abbot on his knee; Then, sent around to every board This farewell-wassail from his lord. The Abbot, tasting of the wine, Rose from his chair, in wonted sign The feast was o'er; yet stood awhile In cheerful converse with high guest. Who from the tables round him pressed, Then, with a kind and gracious smile, The wassail and the board he blessed. Ere yet he left the gorgeous scene,

Archdeacon Nares has pointed out a curious narration of Christmas revels in England, to be found in *Mis*cellanea Antiqua Anglicana, published from an origi-

And sought the tranquil shade within.

nal manuscript in St. John's College, Oxford; and yet another is given in Gerard Leigh's Accidence of Armory, p. 119. The dishes most in vogue were, formerly, for breakfast and supper, on Christmas-eve, a boar's head stuck with rosemary, with an apple or an orange in the mouth, plum porridge, and minced pies. Eating the latter was a test of orthodoxy, as the Puritans conceived it to be an abomination: they were originally made long, in imitation of the cretch, or manger, in which our Lord was laid. The houses and churches were dressed with evergreens, and the former especially with misletoe, a custom probably as old as the Druidical worship. Fosbrooke, in his Encyclopædia of Antiquities, p. 587, speaking of various local customs, mentions that the servants at Hamburgh had a carp for supper on Christmas-eve; and Waldron, in his Description of the Isle of Man, p. 99, among many other curious particulars, relates that at this season parties sate up all night, went to church at twelve, and, after service, hunted and killed a wren, which they carried on a bier to church, and there buried with dirges and whimsical solemnity.

In days of yore, the festivities at Christmas were universally felt and enjoyed by all ranks. Whether from a principle of religion, or from habit and custom, the rich liberally treated the poor; and thus a season in itself naturally gloomy and desolate, passed in the interchange of social visits and hospitable entertainments. Even in modern times many visit each other at Christmas, who have little intercourse during the rest of the year. In the more remote parts of the kingdom, more especially, the genius of hospitality has not yet deserted the yule fireside, nor has the joyous solemnity ceased to warm the bosom of charity.

Of Christmas Husbandly Fare,' honest Tusser furnishes us with a genuine picture, which is interesting, as descriptive of the mode of living of our ancestors three centuries ago. The different viands enumerated are still known by the names which they bear

in the text, if we except 'shred pies,' which appear to be mince-pies, as they are now called. Butcher's meat, poultry, native fruits, and home-brewed, were then thought amply sufficient.

Good husband and huswife, now chiefly be glad, Things handsome to have, as they ought to be had. They both do provide, against Christmas do come, To welcome good neighbour, good cheer to have some. Good bread and good drink, a good fire in the hall,

Good bread and good drink, a good fire in the hall, Brawn, pudding, and souse, and good mustard withall.

Beef, mutton, and pork, shred pies of the best, Pig, veal, goose, and capon, and turkey well drest, Cheese, apples, and nuts, joly carols to hear, As then in the country, is counted good cheer.

Hospitality seems to have been a prominent feature in the character of Tusser; and to that cause, as well as to an unsteady disposition, may probably be ascribed the poverty in which he lived and died. When he tells us that,

Of all other doings house-keeping is chief, For daily it helpeth the poor with relief,

however much we may admire his generosity, we question his prudence. But the fact is, in former times, hospitality was practised at a cheaper rate than in the present times. As luxury has increased the variety and expense of the bill of fare, social entertainments have declined, or at least have become unfrequent from necessity. The friendly repast has given way to the expensive feast, and the intercourse of neighbours is, therefore, rare and formal.

Christmas Eve.—In Ireland, the antient customs of trying charms, to see who shall be one's future spouse, is still kept up with great spirit on this vigil: the charms are much the same as those immortalized by Burns, in his inimitable 'Hallowe'en,' which festival is celebrated by the Irish, also, with quite as much devotional ceremony as by the Scotch.—M. L. B.

26.—saint stephen.
Stephen was the first deacon chosen by the apos1 i 2

tles. He was cited before the Sanhedrin, or Jewish Council, for prophesying the fall of the Jewish Temple and economy; and while vindicating his doctrine by several passages of the Old Testament, he was violently carried out of the city, and stoned to death,

in the year 33.

The translation of the relics of the martyr Stephen, in the time of Austin, was one of the most remarkable things of this kind in that age, and the account of it is given by Austin himself. These bones of St. Stephen, after they had lain buried and unknown for near four centuries, were said to have been discovered by Gamaliel, under whom St. Paul had studied, to one Lucianus, a priest; and being found by his direction, they were removed with great solemnity, and, as was pretended, with many miracles, into Jerusalem. The fame of these relics was soon spread through the christian world, and many little portions of them were brought away by pilgrims, to enrich the churches of their own countries. And wherever any relics were deposited, an oratory or chapel was always built over them, and this was called a memorial of that martyr whose relics it contained. Several relics of St. Stephen having been brought by different persons into Africa, as many memorials of him were erected in different places, of which three were particularly famous, and one of them was at Hippo, where Austin himself was bishop. In all these places, illustrious miracles were said to be wrought continually. For long before this time miracles had been said to be wrought by saints, living and dead.

Vigilantius, a priest of Barcelona, observing that this superstitious respect for the saints, their images, and relics, was introducing paganism into the christian church, wrote against it with great earnestness.—'We see,' says he, 'a pagan rite introduced into our churches under the pretext of religion, when heaps of wax candles are lighted up in the sunshine, and people every where kissing and adoring, I know

not what contemptible dust, reserved in little vessels, and wrapped up in fine linen. These men do great honour truly to the blessed martyrs, by lighting up paltry candles to those whom the Lamb, in the midst of the throne, illuminates with all the lustre of his majesty.' Jerom, who answered Vigilantius, did not deny the practice, or that it was borrowed from the pagans, but he defended it. 'That,' says he, was only done to idols, and was then to be detested; but this is done to martyrs, and is therefore to be received.'

Dr. Moore, in his Travels, mentions being present at a Feast of St. Stephen, held at Vienna, when the Emperor dined in public, with the knights of that order; but, says the traveller, 'there was little or nothing more to remark in this entertainment, than a party of well dressed men eating a great dinner with a good appetite.'

27.—JOHN EVANGELIST.—See p. 134.
28.—INNOCENTS.

This day, often called Childermas Day, is set apart to celebrate the slaughter of the Jewish children by Herod, mentioned by Saint Matthew, and confirmed by Macrobius.—It was formerly a custom in the Abbey of Oseney, at Oxford, on Innocents' Day, to bring out the foot of a child prepared after their fashion, &c. and to 'whip up the children.'—Kennett MS.

The following account of the manner in which the funerals of young children are generally conducted in catholic countries, particularly in Spain, is taken from a recent work on that ill-fated country, and will form an appropriate illustration of this day.

The moral accountableness of a human being does not, according to Catholic divines, begin till the seventh year; consequently such as die without attaining that age, are, by the effect of their baptism, indubitably entitled to a place in heaven. The death of an infant is, therefore, a matter of rejoicing to all but those in

whose bosoms nature speaks too loud to be controlled by argument. The friends who call upon the parents contribute to aggravate their bitterness by wishing them joy for having increased the number of angels. The usual address on these occasions is Angelitos al Cielo! Little Angels to Heaven—an unfeeling compliment, which never fails to draw a fresh gush of tears from the eyes of a mother. Every circumstance of the funeral is meant to force joy upon the mourners. The child, dressed in white garments, and crowned with a wreath of flowers, is followed by the officiating priest in silk robes of the same colour; and the clergymen who attend him to the house from whence the funeral proceeds to the church, sing in joyful strains the psalm Laudate, pueri Dominum, while the bells are heard ringing a lively peal. The coffin, without a lid, exposes to the view the little corpse covered with flowers, as four well-dressed children bear it, amidst the lighted tapers of the clergy. No black dress, no signs of mourning whatever, are seen even among the nearest relatives; the service at church bespeaks triumph, and the organ mixes ita enlivening sounds with the hymns, which thank death for snatching a tender soul, when, through a slight and transient tribute of pain, it could obtain an exemption from the power of sorrow. Yet no funerals are graced with more tears; nor can dirges and penitential mournings produce even a shadow of the tender melancholy which seizes the mind at the view of the formal and affected joy with which a catholic infant is laid in his grave.-Doblado's Letters, p. 318.

In conformity to our plan of poetical illustration, we subjoin the following original poems:—

SONNET to a LITTLE GIRL.

Light as the lark, and merry as the lay
He high in heaven's blue concave carols loud;
And graceful as the hare-bell lightly bowed
With the sweet breath and dews of early day;
Oh, be thy future still as fair and gay!
For, would thy destinies my wish allow
'Thy life should be, ev'n as thy open brow,
Careless and lovely; or thy part of grief,
Since all who enter life must feel its care,
Should be but as a foil or shadow, brief,
To make thy sunny path seem still more fair.
Well do I know how guilt and sorrow spare
Rarely earth's loveliest blossoms; and in me
The thought, at times, hath wakened fears for thee!
RICHARD HOWITT.

On a BEAUTIFUL INFANT.

Sweet babe, may heaven who formed thee, be Thy guide thro' future years; And may the mother view in thee Her smiles, but not her fears.

Just like a day, whose cloudless beam, Is lent in sunny May, Or like a long, delightful dream May thy life glide away:

Or, as some stream that strays near bowers,
And steals the dropping rose,
May thy life run—and friendship's flowers
Thus gild it as it goes.
RICHARD RYAN.

To a dear LITTLE GIRL.

[By William Howitt.]

Go to the fair fields where thy mother grew;
Go mark that river's aye-rejoicing roll;
And let those bright and blessed scenes imbue
Thy happy soul.

Go to that land deliciously that lies—
Brown heaths, dark woods, green vallies, glades obscure,
Basking beneath the undisturbed skies,
Silent and pure;

Inviolate yet, the insufferable throng
Of lettered coxcombs have not broke its rest—
Still left to silence, solitude and song,
A region blest:

Go, dedicate thy heart to Nature's love,
For there she dwells in glory; thou shalt there
Learn how her spells round the young soul are wove—
Her spirit share.

I would not have thee linked unto the gauds
Of city life, moulded to fancies vain;
Pining for follies which the fool applauds,
The wise disdain:

But be thy spirit wed unto the soul
Of Nature's greatness—to the living flow
Of noblest thoughts, warm feelings—to the whole
She will bestow.

Then let the world her witcheries employ;
Thy love her poor enchantments shall not win;
But, brighest waters from the fount of joy
Shall well within:

Then shalt thou gather wisdom day by day
From stars and mountains—wealth from wind and wave;
And the fond heart which framed this guiding lay
Bless in the grave.

*29. 1825.—M. DAVID DIED, ÆT. 76.

At the period when the development of his powers commenced, the genius of the French painters had fallen into the worst possible direction. The style of the Italian school, transmitted by Poussin and Lesueur, had been abandoned; and, under the idea of returning to nature, they had adopted a petty affected representation of her, which possessed neither the graceful, of which they were in search, nor the ideal or the grand, which they had voluntarily renounced. David repaired to Rome: there his mind was influenced by the two-fold impression which it received from the numerous grand and exact productions of the Italian school, and from the statues of the ancients—so chaste, so correct, so simply beautiful. Thus impressed, he struck into a new course, and produced his picture of Andromache, which by many is regarded as one of his master-His painting had then something of the Italian gravity and simplicity; and his pure and lofty design, like that of the antients, had not attained that ideal perfection, bordering upon the stiffness of sta-tuary, which he acquired at a later period. In his next picture, Belisarius, the composition is simple and grand, the design chaste, the expression true, the colouring sedate—the entire character of the production bearing a great resemblance to Poussin, with more correctness and arrangement than that artist usually displays. In tracing his course from his Belisarius to his Rape of the Sabines, the influence of the Italian school will be seen gradually to diminish,

and the taste for antient design to become stronger. so as at last to settle into academic correctness. his Horatii, which may perhaps be regarded as the production that marks the zenith of his talents, there is the same grandeur, the same severity of composition and expression, the same sobriety in the execution; but, without ceasing to be natural, the disposition of the subject is seen to incline towards the sterility of bas-relief. In the Rape of the Sabines, one amongst the most admired and most deserving of admiration of M. David's pictures, it is seen that his drawing has become altogether academic, and the attitudes betray a too great fondness for the display of beautiful forms. His Socrates is grandly conceived; his Brutus is full of beautiful details; his Thermopylæ, and the many other works that have signalized his pencil, are marked with all the toucher of a great master; but by those who love the simple and the true, and are fearful of style, when it hecomes systematic, the first works of M. David will be esteemed his best.

31.—SAINT SILVESTER.

Silvester was Bishop of Rome, succeeding Miltiades in 314. He died in 334.

Astronomical Occurrences

In DECEMBER 1827.

The God of nature and of grace In all his works appears; His goodness through the earth we trace, His grandeur in the spheres.

Lift to the firmament your eyes, Thither his path pursue; His glory, boundless as the skies, O'erwhelms the wond'ring view.

SOLAR PHENOMENA.

THE Sun enters Capricorn at 31 m. past 1 in the afternoon of the 22d of this month; and he rises and

sets during certain days of the same period as in the following Table. His rising and setting for other days must be found by proportion from those now given.

TABLE

Of the Sun's R	ising and Setting for	every fifth Day.
December 1st,	Sun rises 57 m. after 7.	Sets 3 m. past 4

comperist,	Dun rises	D I	m. Biter	7.	ಶಾರಚ	om.past	•
6th,		1	********	8	i	59	3

orat,	*** *** *** ***	U	*****	Q	•••••••	•••••••	•

Equation of Time.

If the quantities be employed as directed in the following Table, the results will be the hours, according to mean time, answering to the respective times by the dial.

TABLE

Of the Equation of Time for every fifth Day.

y y y y	m.	8.
Saturday, Dec. 1st, from the time by the dial subtract	10	54
Thursday 6th,		55
Tuesdayllth,		
Sunday 16th,		
Friday21st.	1	50
Wednesday 26th, to the time by the dial add	0	38
Monday 31st,	8	7

Lunar Phenomena.

Phases of the Moon.

Full Moon	3d day, at	50 m.	after 10	in the morning
Last Quarter	11th	23	8	in the afternoon
New Moon	18th	. 5	2	
First Quarter	25th	47	5	in the morning

Moon's Passage over the Meridian.

The following transits of the Moon will present opportunities of observation if the atmosphere be free from clouds in the southern direction. It may be necessary to remind some of our young readers, that these times correspond with the Meridian of the

Royal Observatory, and that a slight correction will be necessary for any other meridian.

December	10th, at	1 m. after 5 in the morning	8
••	11th	45 5	•
		29 6	
		16 7	
		5 8	
		87 8	
		58 9	
		11 4 in the afternoon	
•		80 5	
		18 6	
		4 7 in the evenin	
		51 7	
		37 8	
		24 9	
		19 10	
		0 11	

Time of High Water at London for every fifth Day.

The time of high tide for other days of this month may be found from the following by proportion, and those for other places as directed under this head in January.

TABLE OF TIDES.

December	ist,	at	27	ning m. after	0	 52	Afternoon m. after	0
•	11th, 16th.	••	1	••••	7	 26 14		7
	26th,		6		8	 36	3' • • • • • •	8

PHENOMENA PLANETARUM.

Phases of Venus.

Venus having now passed the point of her full illumination, the breadth of the enlightened part of her surface begins to decline.

December 1st, { | Illuminated part = 11.67983 | Dark part ... = 0.32067

Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites.

There will be 27 eclipses of the first and second of these satellites this month, but only the four following will be visible, viz.

Immersions.

First Satellite,	3d day, at 39 m.	4 s. after 6 in the morning	
	19th 54	42 6	
	26th 48	14 6	
Second Satellite	9th 19	12 5	
Conjunction of	the Moon with	h the Planets and Star	9.

December 14th, with s in Virgo, at s in the morning 15th, Jupiter 6 17th, Mercury 2 20th, β in Capricorn, 10 in the evening.

Other Phenomena.

Mercury will be stationary on the 9th, and attain his greatest elongation on the 19th of this month. Venus and Georgium Sidus will be in conjunction with each other at 9 in the evening of the 28th.

Meteorological Account of Sierra Leone, for the Year 1793.

OCTOBER. - The rains which, during the preceding months, had been very severe, began to diminish considerably during the present month; as the number of rainy days was only seventeen, of which the 3d, 4th, 5th, 18th, 14th, 16th and 28th, were only attended with slight showers. On the 18th, 23d, 24th, 30th and S1st, smart showers fell; and on the 2d, 6th, 10th and 11th, heavy rain. Torradoes happened on the 3d, 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 22d, 23d, 25th, 26th and 31st, and on the 7th there were two. The 2d, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 29th and 30th, were marked by thunder and lightning. The air was, in general, rendered cool and pleasant by a moderate breeze; but on those days when the land breeze continued nearly till noon, it was often close and sultry during part of the afternoon, until the sea breeze set in. The interval between the sea and land breezes is commonly the greatest under such circumstances. The atmosphere was less gloomy than in the preceding months, though still hazy and often obscured by clouds.

November.—The range of the thermometer was higher in this than in any of the last five months. The degree of moisture in the atmosphere, as shewn by the hygrometer, was less. The prevailing winds were from the North and East. The heat, during the whole month, was nometimes not unpleasant, though sultry about noon, when the sea breeze happened to set: in late. The number of rainy days was only four. On the 1st and 30th, slight showers fell, with a smart shower on the 2d, and heavy rain on the 25th. It thundered and lightened on the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 8th,

10th, 20th, 22d, 25th, and 29th, and tornadoes took phace on the 3d, 6th, 7th, 10th, 12th, 12th, 14th, 18th, and 19th.

December.—This month, like all the preceding, was accompanied by great haziness of the atmosphere, and often with low heavy clouds. The 23d was remarkably foggy; the haze covering the Bullom shore, and extending almost two-thirds over the river, so as eften completely to obstruct the view. The 8th was very close and sultry; the thermometer at 8 A.M. being at 85°. There were three rainy days in this month, the 2d, 27th, and 28th. A fornado occurred on the 1st, and faint lightnings were seen the 26th and 27th. The temperature of the air was in general cool and pleasant. The winds were rather variable. The east was most common in the mornings, and eften continued till noon, or later. It also blew almost the whole of the 19th, 20th, and 21st. About noon it generally came from the north, but towards evening it veered to the west. The breeze was usually moderate and pleasant.

We shall take leave of our young readers, for the present, with the following Ode to Winter, trusting the protracted evenings of this season will be spent in storing the mind with treasures of wisdom and knowledge, drawn from the inexhaustible fountains of that God 'whose mercy is over all his works.'

ODE to WINTER.

Winter, enthroned on yonder treeless hifl!
Thy stern but withered front is wanly lit
By the far Sun's cold ray; piercing and shrifl,
The east-wind raves in many a gusty fit,
Wasting thy thin white locks and silvery beard
On its bleak pinions; thy fixed eye is cold
And glassy as the surface of the waves
O'er whom thy hand has reared
Its wand, within their mazy courses old,
Chaining them as thy slaves.

Thou lovest barrenness, and with thy blast
Hast swept all verdure from the leafless earth;
And, proving her thy vassal, thou hast cast
Thy snowy livery round her: gazing forth
On hill, and vale, and desart waste, is seen
Thy robe of whiteness glistening in the ray;
Here smooth like glass, there into furrows tost:
Thou'st stolen the forest's green,
But on each trunk, and every slender apray,
Is spread thy feathery frost.

Thou art a skilful artist; the fine wire
Of the industrious spider is o'erhung
With thy far finer net-work: I admire
Thy works, thou cold enchanter, and a tongue
To me they have of dreams in boyhood sweet,
Of fairy grots and cities; aye, the trees
Seem branched with silver, carpeted the ground
With down for elfin feet;
Those dreams are almost realized in these
Thy wild creations round!

The Naturalist's Diary

For DECEMBER 1827.

The winter's cheerful fire-side eve, its bright,
And crisp, and spangled fields in morning frost;
Its silent-dropping snows, its pelting showers,
The mighty roaring of its tempests.

WINTER has its pleaures equally with Summer; and while the one can boast its beautiful fields and gardens, and out-of-door rambles, the other has its in-door amusements in profusion, its gay society, and its lively fire-side; it has also its healthful exercises in the open air, and its agreeable frosty days, when walking is not only pleasant but highly salutary: the whole frame is braced to exertion, and we rise 'giants refreshed' from the heats of summer and the languors of autumn. A 'December's Eve at Home' is thus picturesquely described by Mrs. Radcliffe in her Posthumous Works, vol. iv, p. 213:—

Welcome December's cheerful night, When the taper-lights appear; When the piled hearth blazes bright, And those we love are circled there!

And on the soft rug basking lies,
Outstretched at ease, the spotted friend,
With glowing coat and half-shut eyes,
Where watchfulness and slumber blend.

Welcome December's cheerful hour,
When books, with converse sweet combined,
And music's many-gifted power,
Exalt or soothe th' awakened mind.

Then, let the snow-wind shriek aloud,
And menace oft the guarded sash,
And all his diapason crowd,
As o'er the frame his white wings dash.

He sings of darkness and of storm,
Of icy cold, and lonely ways;
But, gay the room, the hearth more warm
And brighter is the taper's blaze.

Then, let the merry tale go round, And airy songs the hours deceive; And let our heartfelt laughs resound, In welcome to December's Eve!

As a companion picture and contrast to the above, we add 'December's Eve Abroad,' by the same talented female:—

Awful is Winter's setting sun,
When, from beneath a sullen cloud,
He eyes his dreary course now run,
And shrinks beneath his lurid shroud-

Leaving to twilight's cold, grey sky
You minster's dark and lonely tower,
That seems to shun the searching eye,
And vanish with the parting hour.

Dim is the long roof's sloping line, Whose airy pinnacles I trace, Point over point, and o'er the shrine And eastern window's gothic grace.

While loud the winds, in chorus clear, Swell, or in sinking murmurs grieve, The ministers of night I hear In requiem o'er December's Eve.

Wide o'er the plains and distant wolds
I see her pall of darkness flow;
And all around, in mighty folds,
Her winding sheet of new-fallen snow.

Farewell December's dismal night!
Appalled I hear thy shricking breath;
And view, aghast, by glimmering light,
Thy visage, terrible in death!
Farewell December's dismal night!

The insect-swarms, which delighted us with their ceaseless hum, their varied tints, and beautiful forms, during the summer and autumnal months, are now retired to their winter quarters, and remain in a state of torpidity, till awakened by the enlivening warmth of

spring.—(See our last volume, p. 321.)

Spiders pass the winter season in a dormant state. inclosed in their own webs, and placed in some concealed corner. Like the torpid mammalia, they speedily revive when exposed to intense cold, and strive to obtain a more sheltered spot. Many insects which are destined to survive the winter months become regularly torpid by a cold exceeding 40°. The house-fly may always be found in the winter season torpid, in some retired corner; but exposure for a few minutes to the influence of a fire recals it to activity. Even some of the lepidopterous insects, which have been hatched late in the season, possess the faculty of becoming torpid during the winter, and thus have their life prolonged beyond the ordinary period. These insects can all be preserved from becoming torpid by being placed in an agreeable temperature. as the following experiments of Mr. Gough (Nicholson's Journal, vol. xix) testify. In speaking of the hearth-cricket (Gryllus domesticus), he says, 'Those who have attended to the manners of this familiar insect, will know that it passes the hottest part of the summer in sunny situations, concealed in the crevices of walls and heaps of rubbish. It quits its summer abode about the end of August, and fixes its residence by the fire-side of the kitchen or cottage. where it is as merry at Christmas as other insects are in the dog-days.' Thus do the comforts of a warm hearth afford the cricket a safe refuge. not from death. but from temporary torpidity; which it can support for a long time, when deprived by accident of artificial warmth: 'I came to the knowledge of this fact.' he says, 'by planting a colony of these insects in a kitchen where a constant fire is kept through the summer, but which is discontinued from November to June, with the exception of a day once in six or eight weeks. The crickets were brought from a dis-

tance and let go in this room, in the beginning of September 1806: here they increased considerably in the course of two months, but were not heard or seen after the fire was removed. Their disappearance led me to conclude that the cold had killed them: but in this I was mistaken, for, a brisk fire being kept up for a whole day in the winter, the warmth of it invited my colony from their hidingplace, but not before the evening, after which they continued to skip about and chirp the greater part of the following day, when they again disappeared, being compelled by the returning cold to take refuge in their former retreats. They left the chimney corner on the 28th May, 1807, after a fit of very hot weather. and revisited their winter residence on the 31st of August. Here they spent the summer merely, and lie torpid at present (January 1808) in the crevices of the chimney, with the exception of those days on which they are recalled to a temporary existence by the comforts of a fire.'—Fleming's Philosophy of **Z**oology, vol. ii, pp. 78, 79.

The evergreen trees with their beautiful cones, such as firs and pines, are now particularly observed and valued: the different species of everlasting flowers, so pleasing an ornament to our parlours in winter, and indeed during the whole year, also attract our attention. The oak, the beech, and the hornbeam, in part retain their leaves; while other trees are entirely denuded of their beautiful dress, their 'leafy honours' being strewed in the dust, and returned to

their parent earth.

Towards the end of the month, woodcocks and snipes become the prey of the fowler. The jack-snipe (Scolopax gallinula), which visits us at this period, is a decided species, with marked and singular habits.

See T. T. for 1824, p. 319.

Scotian Botany for Wecember.

THE FUNGI.

Mushrooms are to be met with in pastures, woods, and marshes. but are very uncertain and capricious in their places of growth; multitudes being obtained in one season, where few or mone were to be found in the preceding. They sometimes grow solitary, but more frequently they are gregarious, and rise in a regular, circular form. Many species are employed by man as food, but generally speaking they are difficult of digestion, and by no means very nourishing; and if this were all that could be said against their use, it were well; but by far the greater number are suspicious, and many have proved prejudicial and even poisonous; yet, notwithstanding, the ignorant will not be deterred from using them, although seldom a year passes without some awful warning. It would be most desirable, could we with certainty distinguish between the noxious and the harmless, but as yet neither the chemist nor botanist has been able to effect this much wished for object. Little reliance can be placed either on their taste, colour, or smell, as much depends on the situation in which they vegetate; and even the same plant, it is affirmed, may be innocent when young, but become noxious when advanced in age.

The symptoms produced by eating the deleterious species are of the most alarming kind, such as giddiness and confusion of sight, and even stupor, convulsions, and death. Under these accidents the offending matter should be evacuated as speedily as possible by means of an emetic, and afterwards by a brisk laxative. Mushrooms growing in marshy and shady places, as in woods, where the Sun's rays seldom penetrate, should be regarded with suspicion, as also those which have a gaudy colour, an unpleasant odour, a lucid appearance, and more especially those which have been covered by an envelope. The Russians, it is said, reject very few of them from their table, and even eat with impunity some that are considered as highly noxions in this country. Those held in highest estimation among us are very few in number; they consist of the trufile, Tuber cibarium, and the morel, Moschella esculenta; but by far the most common is

the Agaricus cumpestris.

Truffles are solid, generally of the form and size of a hen's egg; their surface is rough and uneven, their substance is firm, of a white colour when young, but becoming darker with age. They are to be found sparingly in some of our highland woods, where they frequently come to maturity under ground. In some parts of the continent where they are numerous, dogs are trained to scratch them up; but we have never heard of that being practised in Scotland. They are principally used to thicken and give flavour to soups and for making sauces. The morel also occurs in

Scotland in woods, and is to be found in the spring. It has a low, solid, cylindrical stem; its cap is white, smooth, of an oval shape, and on the under surface it is reticulated with irregular polygonal cells, in which its seeds are concealed; it is destitute of a wrapper, and grows to the height of three or four inches. Its chief use is in seasoning made dishes. But the Agericus pratensis is almost the only mushroom made use of in Scotland. It has a short, white, and solid stem, nearly cylindrical. and about the thickness of the finger; its cap is white, but becomes of a brown colour by age: when young, it is convex, but gradually becomes flatter as it is fully developed. Underneath it is furnished with gills of a beautiful pink colour, which afterwards become of a liver brown. They are generally found in old pastures, especially after rain, and are most abundant in the months of August and September. They are eaten fresh, stewed, boiled, and pickled; for these purposes their skin, stems, and gills are removed, and the solid part only is retained When sprinkled with salt, and allowed to remain for some time, a considerable quantity of juice is obtained, which, when boiled up with spices, constitutes the well-known ketchup-sauce.

In order to procure mushrooms at all seasons, several methods of propagation have been had recourse to. We are informed that, in some parts of Italy, a species of stone is used for this purpose, which is described as being of two different kinds: the one is found in the chalk-hills near Naples, and has a white porous stalactitical appearance; the other is a bardened turf from some volcanic mountains near Florence: these stones are kept in cellars, and occasionally moistened with water which has been used in the washing of mushrooms, and are thus supplied with their minute seeds. In this country, gardeners provide themselves with what is called spawn, either from the old dung of cucumber beds, or purchase it from those whose business it is to propagate it: when thus procured, it is usually made up for sale in quadrils, consisting of numerous white fibrous roots, having a strong smell of mushrooms. A dry situation is next fixed upon, when a bed is formed of fermented horse-dung, in shape like the ridge of a house, and from three to four feet in height; this is allowed to remain till any heat which may be generated by fermentation is moderated. The spawn is then divided into small fragments, and planted in rows immediately under the surface, and at the distance of about six inches from each other. The surface of the bed is then made smooth, and covered for about an inch and a half in thickness with rich dry mould, which again is to be smoothed with the spade. The whole is then to be covered with clean dry straw, at least a foot in thickness, and in five or six weeks the bed begins to produce, and continues to do so for several months.

The seeds of mushrooms are contained often in great quan-

tities in the dung of horses, especially of these which are feel on hard food; they are also met with in the dung of other animals, but much more sparingly, which must either depend upon the ergans of digestion in the horse having less power of destroying the vegetative tendency than those of other animals, or perhaps on the nature of the food taken into their stomachs.

The Fungi have been examined chemically, with much care, by MM. Bracannot and Vauquelin; they designate the insoluble spongy matter by the name of Fungin, and the soluble portion is found to contain the Beletic and the Fungic acids.

EPITOME OF THE CLIMATE, WEATHER, PRODUCTS, AND MARKETABLE SUPPLIES OF BENGAL.

Cold weather.—The thermometer ranges from 56 in the morning to 70 in the afternoon. On the 20th day, Sun rises at Calcutta, 6 h. 42 m.; sets 5 h. 18 m. Windamortherly; weather clear, cool, and temperate; evenings and mornings extremely chilly, and attended with dense fogs. Meat and fish-market in high order: game of all kinds in abundance. The vegetables procurable are peas, lettuces, young onions, radishes, small salad, sweet potatoes, French-beams, seem, yams, carrots, turnips, greens, young cabbages, canliflowers, and potatoes, in perfection. The Brazil currants (tipperahs) and bail make their appearance; and oranges, limes, lemons, and papias, &c. continue in season.

Delightful weather.—Fair days.—Mornings and evenings foggy.—The difference between the length of the longest and the shortest day at Calcutta, is only two hours and forty-eight minutes.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have to express our best thanks to the various friends who have favoured us with their valuable contributions; particularly to the Rev. Henry Cotes, the Rev. J. Plumptre, Mr. Huddleston, Mr. W. Brodie, and Mr. J. Hartshorne.—Observations on the appearances of Nature in every month, in England, as well as in different parts of the world, especially in North and South America, will be very desirable; and accounts of obsolete or existing customs, and sketches of neglected or contemporary biography, will be always acceptable: these should be addressed to the Editor, to the care of Messrs. Sherwood, Gilbert and Piper, Paternoster Row, London; and transmitted before the 1st of July, 1827.

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